

DISCOVERING GOD THROUGH SCIENCE

(Based on the Urdu book *Khuda ki Daryaft: Sainsi Haqa'iq ki Raushni Mai* By Maulana Wahiduddin Khan)

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PUBLISHER'S NOTE

This book is based on an Urdu book by Maulana Wahiduddin Khan (d. 2021) titled *Khuda ki Daryافت: Sainisi Haqa'iq ki Roshni Mai* ('The Discovery of God In the Light of Scientific Facts'), which was published in 2020, not long before the Maulana's demise the following year. ***Khuda ki Daryافت* consists of essays of varying lengths written by the Maulana over almost half a century, the first perhaps having been written sometime in the 1970s. (PLEASE CHECK)** These essays reflect on diverse topics, but a common thread runs throughout the book: scientific evidence points to the existence of the One Creator God.

Numerous books have been written on God, Religion and Science. Many are technical, abstruse and dense and do not make for easy reading for the general reader. This book is markedly different, however. It is a treasure-trove of wisdom, inspiration and wisdom for just about anyone who is interested in exploring issues related to the interface between Science, Religion and Spirituality and is seeking answers to perplexing existential questions such as the purpose of human life, the creation of the universe and what happens after death. It can be helpful and inspiring for people from various backgrounds, irrespective of religion and academic training, written in an easy-to-understand style.

The book clearly shows that far from negating the existence of God, the Creator and Master of the universe, modern scientific findings provide compelling evidence for God's existence. Authentic science and authentic religiousness thus confirm, rather than confront, each other. In different words, God's Word (as expressed in Divine revelation) and God's Work (as expressed in the universe) are in perfect harmony. The discovery that the universe had a definite beginning point to a pre-existent cause that brought it into being—and, the book shows, this cause cannot be anything but the One God, who is eternal. Likewise, the fine-tuning, intricate design and perfect balance of the universe, among other such features that scientific discoveries have highlighted, cannot be satisfactorily accounted for other than by attributing them to the One Creator God.

Perhaps under the influence of fallacious ideologies, some people who have a shallow understanding of both science and religion think that modern science has convincingly disproved the existence of God. This book effectively debunks this belief, showing it to be completely hollow. Science can be a close ally, far from being an enemy of authentic religiousness. In the light of the findings and arguments highlighted in this book, one can very well say that one cannot be authentically scientific without being authentically religious, and *vice versa*.

Reflecting on the marvels of the creation uncovered by modern science, the book shows that can be an essential means for one's spiritual advancement. It can enable us to grow in our understanding of the Creator and our devotion to Him. The Creator has created

all created things that exist, and so, they are all signs of the Creator, pointing as they do to the One who brought them into being. The subject matter of modern science is Nature or, in other words, God's creation. The research findings of modern science provide us with a vast field of information about God's creation, pondering on which we can grow in our understanding of the Creator. Developing our insights about God's creation by contemplating scientific findings can help deepen our spiritual life by making us more conscious of the presence of the Creator and more aware of His attributes that are reflected in His creation.

It can be said that turning one's back to God is the root of all evils. In our times, the widespread phenomenon of heedlessness of God has led to all sorts of evils. For many people, heedlessness of God results from an erroneous belief that modern science has proved God to be a myth. However, as this book brilliantly shows, the findings of modern science point precisely in the opposite direction, clearly testifying to the One God, Creator, Master and Sustainer of the universe, as described in the Quran. Therefore, science can help promote God-consciousness rather than undermine it.

As the title of this book suggests, far from necessarily leading to atheism, modern science, through its findings on Nature or the creation, can lead us to discover the Creator and know more about Him. These findings are a means to discover God's existence and His attributes reflected in the universe that He has created. However, scientific findings can take us only thus far. They can make us aware that there is a Creator of the universe and that, as the nature of His creation indicates, He possesses attributes such as creativity, power, wisdom, beauty and so forth, all of which are reflected in His creation. However, science cannot answer such questions as 'Why did God create man?', 'What is the relationship between God and man?', 'What is the way for man to live that is pleasing to God?' and 'What happens to us when we die?'. The only reliable source of answers to these questions is the Creator Himself. It points to the necessity and significance of Divine revelation—revelation from the Creator—as the only authentic means for man to obtain these answers.

From the very advent of humankind on Earth, God has sent a series of Messengers into the world to inform people about such issues—or, in other words, to tell them about what can be called 'God's Creation Plan'. There have been no people to whom God has not sent at least one such Messenger. The essential message of all these Divinely-appointed Messengers was the same. These Messengers exhorted people to lead a God-oriented life, a life based on awareness of, and willing self-surrender to, the One God—or, in brief, a life characterized by ethical monotheism. This way of life is the only way to true success in this temporary world and the eternal world that comes after death—the world of the Hereafter.

Inviting humanity to turn to God and lead a God-oriented life can have been the important mission of Maulana Wahiduddin Khan. This concern is also profoundly

reflected in this book. This book indicates that scientific findings, properly understood, are entirely in conformity with the concept of God that all the prophets have taught. It also highlights that knowledge of the universe provided by modern science can help us grow in awareness of the presence of God and our devotion to Him.

INTRODUCTION

The journey to discover God stems from a deep-seated urge innate to man's nature. It is so easy and simple that every person can undertake this journey in their vicinity. One does not need to travel anywhere for this purpose physically. **According to a story, someone once asked a Bedouin what evidence was for God's existence. The Bedouin replied that the camel's dung was evidence of the existence of a camel, footprints on the sand were evidence of the existence of a person who had walked there, and so were not the vast skies, the broad earth and the enormous seas filled with waves sufficient evidence for the existence of a Creator of them all? [CHECK AGAINST P. 5]**

This story is about a humble and wise man. From it, one can understand that realizing the existence of the Creator is so easy that every human being, at the level of their nature, can conclude that God does exist by reflecting on their immediate surroundings. There is no need to visit a library, read many books, or set off on a long journey to discover God. You can discover the existence of God wherever you are. However, there is only one condition: one must be a sincere seeker.

Once, someone asked me how we can know God. I asked him to reflect on the fingers of his hands and the toes on his feet. Had his fingers been very short and his toes very long, how difficult his life would have been! Our fingers and toes are just the right size for our hands and feet to function smoothly. They indicate wise planning, of a sort that only the Creator and Provider of the universe, beyond man, could have arranged for. If one does not accept God, the Creator and the Provider and Sustainer of the universe, one cannot correctly understand anything. Knowing God is as easy as knowing oneself.

This sort of discovery can be called the discovery of God at the level of commonsense. However, there is another level of discovery that man has discovered in modern times: the discovery of God through scientific evidence. This phenomenon has been indicated in the Quran thus (41:53):

We shall show them Our signs in the universe and within themselves until it becomes clear that this is the Truth.

Today, man can easily discover God through new and abundant scientific evidence that points to a Supreme Being behind the universe and involves its functioning. It is a significant point that this book seeks to make.

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Science is the study of Nature, which consists of everything contained in the universe. Scientific research began with some initial issues, and the more it expanded, the more it became clear that the universe is an exceedingly meaningful realm. Any explanation or interpretation of the universe based on its meaningfulness cannot be compatible with scientific research findings.

Through scientific research, it has come to be known that the universe is characterized by intelligent design. Now, if one does not accept that this intelligent design indicates an Intelligent Designer—or, in other words, the Creator God—who arranged for this intelligent design, the various phenomena of the universe are entirely inexplicable.

Likewise, scientific research has shown that our universe is custom-made—that is, that it is entirely in line with the needs of all the many different types of living beings that inhabit it. If we do not accept that this compatibility between the universe and the various living creatures in it points to the existence of a Creator who caused this to be so, it is simply not possible to provide a comprehensible explanation of this phenomenon.

Likewise, findings in various fields of scientific research show that the different parts and features of the universe are intricately and profoundly interconnected and immensely finely tuned. There must be some explanation for these mindboggling phenomena. The only significant explanation for them is the concept of a Creator God, who has designed the universe in the most appropriate way possible.

Science is not a religious subject. The subject matter of science is not the discovery of God, or the Creator, as such. Instead, its subject matter is Nature, or, in other words, the creations of the Creator. However, the Creator is not separate from the creation, so the study of the creation indirectly becomes the Creator's study. The things that science has discovered in the course of research on the universe or Nature are Divine signs, which in the Quran are termed as ***ayaat Allah*** or '**signs of God**'. In this sense, it would be correct to say that the discovery of the **significance of the creation is synonymous with the discovery of the meaningfulness of the Creator**.

For me, the realization of God has been the focal point of my quest from the very first day. In this quest, my days and nights have been spent so much that perhaps I can say that I have found God. Around 1960, I was in my brother's house in Azamgarh, in northern India. There, I met a person. Suddenly, during our conversation, he asked **me**, "Can man see God?" I answered, "Have you not seen God as yet?"

I have had many such experiences in my life. However, be that as it may, 'seeing God' in this world is in the **symbolic** (majazi) sense, not in the **real** (haqiqi) sense, because in the real sense, this world, no person can see God, the Sustainer of all the worlds.

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Once, in an article, I wrote that to believe in God is strange, but not believing in God is stranger still. When I say that I believe in God, I prefer the less strange to the more strange.

A friend of the noted scientist Albert Einstein once asked him if he was an atheist. He replied negatively and explained that he could be agnostic more appropriately. An agnostic says that he cannot say that God does not exist, but neither can he say that God does exist.

We can paraphrase Einstein's response as follows: "I have no evidence to support the denial of God, and the scientific evidence in support of the existence of God is so considerable that I am also not in a position to say that there is no God. I can say that probably there is a God, but I am not in a position to say, in certain terms, 'Yes, God does exist.'"

Taking the help of terminology used in Quantum Physics, one could say that Einstein's position is synonymous with the acknowledgement of God because following the discovery of subatomic particles and probability waves, in Quantum Physics, probability has acquired the status close to certainty, and now it is accepted that while probability is less than certainty, it is more that 'perhaps'.

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The search for Reality is a natural quest. Every person who comes into this world has a natural desire to know what and who he is, how and why he came into existence, his significance in this world, how this world came into being, and what will happen after he dies. Such questions underpin man's quest for understanding Reality. This quest has always been a common search for all human beings who have taken birth on Earth. Perhaps not a single person is bereft of the urge to find the answers to these existential questions. Some people have given this quest the status of a spiritual search, while others have thought of it as a mystical journey. Some have tried to discover what they were looking for through meditation, while others have taken to other spiritual practices for the same purpose.

As far as my understanding goes, this search acquired a new form with the Italian scientist Galileo Galilei (1564-1642). Galileo played a crucial role in indirectly discovering God by observing the Creator's creation. In Galileo's time, an event took place that proved to be of immense significance—the invention of the telescope. The telescope was first developed in 1608, and the following year, **Galileo prepared a more advanced version of it.** Using this telescope, he could partially observe the solar system. Through his study, he discovered that the ancient theory of the sun revolving around the Earth was wrong and that, instead, it is the Earth that revolves around the sun. Thus, thanks to Galileo, the 'heliocentric theory' was replaced with the 'geocentric theory'. This event could be said to mark the beginning of modern science.

Galileo is called the founder of modern science. One reason for this is that he delinked one thing from another. With the separation of the qualitative aspect of things from the quantitative aspect, sadly indeed, the focus of science permanently shifted from the former to the latter.

Galileo distinguished the primary qualities of things, easily measurable, from their secondary qualities, which cannot be measured. Alexis Carrel (1873-1944) rightly writes, "The quantitative was separated from the qualitative." The quantitative, expressed in mathematical language, brought science to humanity. However, Carrel adds, "The qualitative was neglected." (Man the Unknown)

Carrel appears to view separating the qualitative aspects of things from their quantitative aspects as unwholesome. However, this development led to new and very major transformations in science. This delinking of the two dimensions opened the doors of scientific research that had been shut to science under the influence of philosophy. Following this, research in various fields of science began to advance. This research was not directly linked to religion, but indirectly, it was wholly related. The discoveries that this research came up with provided data that could indirectly prove the existence of God. Using the scientific data about the universe that was generated following the delinking of the quantitative aspects of things from their qualitative aspects, it was now possible to provide scientific proof for the truths of religion.

Empirically speaking, Galileo's method meant the separation of the observable aspects of a thing from its unobservable aspects. Prior to this, scholars had not been able to delink the two. Because of being engrossed in the quest to discover the unobservable aspects of things, they had not made much headway in discovering their observable aspects. However, now it came about that their entire focus came to be placed on the observable aspects of things. Discovering the observable aspects of things made it possible to arrive at their unobservable aspects indirectly. In other words, at the intellectual level, it was now possible that discovering objects and their features in the created realm could realise their unobservable Creator. It is the same method that in science is called the inferential method. As a result of using this methodology in scientific research, the realities of God became discoverable in an indirect manner. In recent decades, a vast corpus of writings has appeared on this subject.

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The invention of the microscope and the telescope took the search for Reality to a new height. Science witnessed tremendous advances concerning the quantitative or observable aspects of Reality. However, the qualitative aspects, especially the 'why' questions of the universe and man, were outside the domain of science. However, these are vital questions, and this book has attempted to reflect on them.

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I have written a fair deal on God, Religion and Science. My writings on the subject include several articles and a full-length book in Urdu, titled *Mazhab Aur Jadeed Challenj* ('Religion and Modern Challenges'), which was published in 1966 and later came out in English under the title *God Arises: Evidence of God in Nature and Science* (1987). I can say that I have made this subject one of my primary concerns.

Wahiduddin Khan

New Delhi

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DISCOVERY OF GOD

Discovery of God

The history of God's philosophical pursuit of, or search for, goes back to ancient Greece. In terms of its actual reality, philosophy is the search for the Creator. However, philosophy could never succeed in discovering God. The subject matter of philosophy is Existence. It is the study of general and fundamental questions about existence, knowledge, values, reason, mind and language.

It is, as it were, an 'external description' of the subject matter of philosophy. However, in terms of its reality, philosophy is but another name for the search for the Supreme Reality or Truth, or, in other words, God. In some way or the other, all philosophers were engaged in search of the Ultimate Truth. However, no philosopher was able to succeed in his search.

Failure of the Philosophical Search

The case of all philosophers was the same—that is, they set out in search of Reality. All philosophers sought to know Truth through the path of knowledge. However, experience tells us that every philosopher failed in this regard.

Take the case of one of the most well-known philosophers of modern times, the British scholar Bertrand Russell (1872-1970). A biographer has written that he was a 'philosopher of no philosophy'. Despite engaging in the study for much of his life, Russell failed to discover Truth. The case of all other philosophers has been just the same. Few of them acknowledged this fact, though, in contrast to Russell, who confessed in his autobiography:

When I survey my life, it seems to me a useless one, devoted to impossible ideals. My activities continue from the force of habit, and in the company of others, I forget the despair which underlies my daily pursuits and pleasure. However, when I am alone and idle, I cannot conceal that my life has no purpose and that I know of no new purpose to devote my remaining years. I find myself involved in

a vast mist of solitude, both emotional and metaphysical, from which I can find no issue.

(The Autobiography of Bertrand Russell, 1950, p. 395)

This is not the story of just one philosopher alone, however. Instead, it is the case with all philosophers. All philosophers had made the Supreme Reality the subject of their research, but not one of them could obtain the answer to their quest.

Correct Methodology

This failure is that the philosophers could not discover the correct methodology for their search. This correct methodology has been indicated in the Quran. It is reflected in the following narrative in the Quran (7:13), which is related to the Prophet Moses and which may have occurred around 3500 years ago:

When Moses came at Our appointed time, and his Lord spoke to him, he said, "My Lord, show Yourself to me so that I may look at You." He replied, "You cannot see Me, but look at the mountain; if it remains firmly in its place, you will only see Me." Moreover, when his Lord manifested Himself on the mountain, He broke it into pieces, and Moses fell unconscious. Moreover, when he recovered, he said, "Glory be to You, I turn towards You, and I am the first to believe."

Reflect on this verse of the Quran. Here, God says, "You cannot see Me", and at the end of the verse, the Prophet Moses says, "I am the first to believe". If one reflects on these two sets of words, it will be evident that while man cannot see God directly, he can realise God indirectly. By pondering on the creation and discovering its properties and laws—which is what science does—one can realize the Creator's existence and grow in one's understanding and appreciation of some of God's attributes.

A key event in using this indirect methodology started in the early 17th century when Galileo used the telescope to study the solar system. The telescope symbolizes scientific reflection on God's creation, which is the scientific method of obtaining the realization of the Creator. Reflection on the marvels of the creation provides one with sufficient evidence for the Creator's existence or God. In other words, science can be of great use in the realization of the existence of God through the indirect or inferential method.

In the age of Quantum Physics, it came to be proved that the final particle of matter is a subatomic particle. A subatomic particle is not directly observable. It cannot be seen, and it is always in motion. While it is moving, it generates heat, which is directly discoverable, and in this way, the final particle of matter also becomes discoverable. In other words, the final particle of matter is discoverable indirectly, not directly. We cannot see it, but we infer that it exists through its effect.

The same is the case with the Creator of the universe. The Creator undoubtedly has His separate existence. However, in relation to man, He is discoverable only indirectly,

through reflection on His creation. We cannot see God directly, but we can infer that God does exist by studying His creation.

The fact is that the philosophers were engaged in a search for God, but they could never discover Him at the level of certainty. The reason for this is that their method itself was impractical. All the intellectuals who tried to arrive at God through the philosophical method could not discover the correct method for finding God. They all wanted to see God directly, whereas the realization of God is possible only in an indirect manner. They kept up their fruitless effort of trying to discover God directly. However, the direct method they sought to use can discover things in the created realm, but it is not workable regarding the Creator or the Ultimate Truth. That is why the philosophers failed in their quest.

What, then, is the correct method for discovering God? Guidance in this regard is provided in the narrative about the Prophet Moses contained in the Quran referred to earlier. Reflecting on this incident, one learns that man cannot see God directly. Man can obtain knowledge of the existence of God only indirectly—that is, we can arrive at knowledge of the Creator through contemplating His creation.

Faith in the Unseen

The Quran (2:2-3) says:

This is the Book; there is no doubt in it. It is a guide for those mindful of God, who believe in the unseen [...]

Faith in the Unseen is not simply a matter of religious belief. It is directly connected with the issue of spiritual guidance. Only someone who has faith in the Unseen will gain spiritual guidance. In contrast, a person who does not have faith in the Unseen will not receive spiritual guidance.

In the Arabic language, the word **ghaib** or **'unseen'** does not only mean something not present. The word is used for something invisible but is not non-existent—that is, something that is not visible while being existent. The same is the case with God. Even though God appears to be in the Unseen, He is more present than all the present things. In the above Quranic verse, by 'the unseen' is meant **Iman ba Allah/faith in God**, but**tabiyatan? All those aspects related to faith in God/mutalliqat-e iman** are included here that are necessary for a true devotee of God to have faith in—for instance, Divine revelation, angels, Hell and Heaven, etc.

The fact is that we know things through two methods. One is observation, and the other is inference. These methods are equally valid from a specific point of view. So in terms of their validity, there is no difference between them.

Science is regarded as a valid means for scholarly research in the present age. Science has two parts—theoretical science, and the other is technical science or applied science.

Technical science deals only with the external or apparent aspects of things. However, in their final analysis, all things that appear to be visible turn invisible. According to a scientific study, all things are finally a collection of atoms, and an atom, in its final analysis, is a collection of sub-atomic particles which are not visible. In this sense, then, it would be correct to say that not only is it the unseen Creator who is in the Unseen and hence unobservable to us directly, but even the observable creations are, in their final analysis, in the Unseen.

The fact is that we see only the appearance of the things that we view in this world. At the subatomic level, their actual reality remains unseen to us. The same case is with God. In terms of His Being, God appears to be unobservable, but in terms of His creation, God becomes **mashhood/seen/observable** for us. For the creation to exist is in itself proof of God's existence. The creation of the universe is so meaningful that it is simply impossible to explain without accepting its Creator.

In one sense, God's being in the Unseen is on account of the exigency of the test that we human beings are being put to during our short spell on Earth. If God could be seen through our physical eyes, the **exigency of the test would be over. (P.23, LINE 1)** Because God is in the Unseen, believing in Him tests us. If God were before our eyes and observable for us, bringing faith in Him would not **become/be** a test for man. For God and **imaniyat/fundamental aspects of faith** related to Him to be in the Unseen is an excellent blessing for man because it is on account of this that a process of thinking occurs in man's mind. On account of this, there is a never-ending field of reflection and contemplation for us. On account of this, it becomes possible for us to find God at the level of discovery. On account of this, the realization of God can be for us a self-discovered reality—and it is a fact that there is nothing more significant than a self-discovered reality in this world. For God and the **imaniyat/ aspects of faith** related to Him to be in a state of the Unseen for man is an endless source of intellectual development.

For obtaining spiritual guidance, faith in the Unseen is a necessary condition. However, this is not an arbitrary sort of condition. Instead, it is an exceedingly maaqul/rational/reasonable condition for a creature like a man. In order to understand any reality, an awakened mind is required. **A person/Only a person** whose mind is awake can understand any great reality. God is undoubtedly the most significant reality. **That is why only that person can obtain faith in God or** God-realization in the real sense who awakens his mind through study and reflection. A person whose mind is not awake is sunk in intellectual blindness. Without any doubt, with intellectual blindness, no one can realise God.

Explanation of the Universe

According to many scientists, some 13.8 billion years ago, there was a tiny cosmic ball in space. An explosion took place in this ball—the event that is called the ‘Big Bang’. This is said to have been the start of the universe. It is also said that soon after this explosion, another event occurred, with the particles that were contained in the ball spreading out in the vast expanse at great speed. After this, **tadriji taur par/gradually/in stages**, the present universe came into being.

The particles in the ‘cosmic ball’ rapidly spreading out into space following the ‘Big Bang’ was a very extraordinary event. It could not have happened on its own. If the ‘Big Bang’ theory is true, it indicates the presence of an intervener who existed prior to the ‘Big Bang’ and who caused it to happen—or, in other words, the Creator God. A supposed cause like an ‘accident’ or ‘mere chance’, which atheists might offer in this regard, cannot explain this phenomenon.

The ‘Big Bang’: An Orderly Event

According to some scientists, the ‘Big Bang’ was a more peaceful and orderly event than is generally thought. Many scientists believe that the universe began with an enormous explosion. However, findings show that this was not an explosion in the conventional sense. Instead, it might have been an event of a release of energy, whose reality we have not been able to understand so far. Two scientists, Richard Muller and George Smoot of the University of California, have come up with data suggesting that the ‘Big Bang’ was a much smoother and more orderly event than is popularly imagined.

If the ‘Big Bang’ theory is true, the question arises, “Who or what caused the ‘Big Bang’ to happen?” It is reasonable to assume that it could not have happened independently, nor by chance or accident. There must have been some Being in existence prior to the ‘Big Bang’ who possessed the intelligence, will, intention, and power required for such a momentous event as bringing the universe into being who was responsible for this event. The only reasonable explanation for this event is that it was the handiwork of a Creator God.

The fact is that modern scientific explorations, including the ‘Big Bang’ theory of the origin of the universe, have taken man to the very doorstep of realizing the existence of God, and now all that is left is for God’s existence to be verbally acknowledged.

The Supreme Creator, the All-Knowing

One of God’s features is that He is the Creator of the universe. Another of His features is that He is Omniscient. The Quran (36:81) says:

He is indeed the Supreme Creator, the All-Knowing

(please check if there should be a hyphen between ‘All’ and ‘Knowing’)

The universe that God created is itself proof of the fact that God is the Supreme Creator and the All-Knowing One. A verse of the Quran (21:30) indicates this fact in the following words:

Do not those who deny the truth see that the heavens and the earth were joined together and that We then split them asunder?

At the beginning of this verse, “Do not those who deny the truth see” appear. There is an indication that the phenomenon of the heavens and the earth being “joined together” and then being “split” asunder that the verse refers to is for man, something known at the level of observation. Moreover, in the 20th century, this event became known at the intellectual level due to a scientific discovery known as the ‘Big Bang’. According to modern scientific findings, the ‘Big Bang’ event occurred 13.8 billion years ago. The details of this event discovered by science testify to the statement made by the Quran.

The ‘Big Bang’ is scientific evidence that the One who brought this universe into being is the Great Creator and the All-Knower. Had He not been so, the universe is coming into being would have been impossible.

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According to the ‘Big Bang’ theory, the ‘super-atom’ in which the ‘Big Bang’ happened contained all the particles that comprise the present universe. When the ‘Big Bang’ happened, these particles began to race about in space at immense speed. However, had the dispersal of the particles remained at this speed, it would not have been possible for the present universe to come into being because the particles would have been scattered about in space, thus preventing their coalescence.

Scientific discoveries tell us that after the explosion in the ‘super-atom’, in just a few seconds, the speed of the dispersal of its particles suddenly lessened. This reduction in their speed was significant because, as a result, the scattered particles began to coalesce, and through this, stars and galaxies came into being. This development reveals that the One who had arranged it to happen was All-Knowing and All-Powerful. Having prior knowledge of this development, He planned it accordingly. Had He not had prior knowledge of this development, which occurred in a minuscule fraction of time, His entire planning would go in vain, and it would have been impossible for the universe to come into being. As the Quran says, this is a definite proof of God being the Supreme Creator and the All-Knowing.

It is said that prior to the ‘Big Bang’, the particles in the ‘super-atom’ were pulled inwards with great intensity. Then, with the ‘Big Bang’, the particles broke off from their centre and began to spread in the outward direction so that they could give existence to the present universe. The factors that were at work in the ‘super-atom’ prior to the ‘Big Bang’ had been pulling its components inwards and keeping them tightly compressed,

and so, with the event of the 'Big Bang', for these components to start travelling in just the opposite direction—outwards—could only come about through the planned intervention of some external force. This event compels us to acknowledge the existence of an independent and mighty Being who is over and above the universe, who, through conscious action, produced this unusual movement in the initial matter.

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The creation is in itself evidence of the Creator. The universe is such a meaningful phenomenon that it is inconceivable that it could have come into being without some Being having made it.

Scientists are now generally of the view that the universe is not eternal but, instead, it had a definite beginning, which is believed to have happened some 13.8 billion years ago with the Big 'Bang'. The fact that the universe had a definite beginning (and that, therefore, it is not eternal) indicates that some pre-existing Being, through its will, brought it into existence. This Being is God. In other words, the modern scientific discovery that the universe has a definite beginning is convincing evidence for the existence of the Creator God.

In this matter, the choice before us is not a universe with God and a universe without God. Instead, the real choice is between a universe with God and no universe. If we say that God does not exist, we are also compelled to say that the universe does not exist. However, the universe is so apparent that we are not in a position to deny its existence. That being the case, we cannot deny the existence of God either.

'Big Bang', 'Little Bang'

Man has always wondered about how the universe came into being. He has always wanted an intellectually-convincing answer to this question. Finally, in the **rabbe avval/first quarter** of the 20th century, the man got a rational answer to this issue for the first time. Modern astronomical science indicated that approximately 13.8 billion years ago, there was an explosion in space. This explosion is generally called the 'Big Bang'. It is said that following the 'Big Bang', gradually, the present universe came into being.

Be that as it may, one question remained unanswered. Moreover, that was how the solar system came into being, where Earth is located. The solar system is exceptional in the entire universe. And then, inside our solar system, Earth is a distinctive planet. Astronomers could not rationalise how the unique solar system came about in the universe. However, some decades following the discovery of the 'Big Bang', it came to be known that a small explosion occurred in space after the 'Big Bang' event. It was given the name 'Little Bang'. Following this 'Little Bang', the solar system came into being, and, gradually, the planet also came into being called 'Earth'.

The scientific discoveries of the 'Big Bang' and the 'Little Bang' tell us that the creation of the universe happened through the planning of a sophisticated sort. This universe did not exist through any accident but under a purposeful plan. It indicates the existence of a conscious Planner—or, in other words, the Creator God—behind it.

The 'Big Bang' and the 'Little Bang' events are in themselves proof of the fact that this universe has a meaningful purpose and a specific destination. The universe is meaningful, and a meaningful universe cannot end in a meaningless conclusion. There must be some definite reason why it was brought into being.

Six Bangs

In the early 20th century, it was claimed that an event had been discovered that had heralded the universe coming into existence. It was given 'Big Bang' by the British scientist Fred Hoyle (d. 2001). After the Big Bang, one of the events that are said to have occurred in space was the emergence of the solar system, in which Earth is located. The American scientist Alan P. Boss (b. 1951) gave this event the name of 'Little Bang'.

Based on this system of nomenclature, one could say that in the course of history, the following six 'bang'-like events have occurred:

1. *Big Bang*
2. *Little Bang*
3. *Water Bang*
4. *Plant Bang*
5. *Animal Bang*
6. *Human Bang*

After the event known as the 'Big Bang' occurred, the present world of stars and planets came into being. Following this, a 'Little Bang' took place, through which the present solar system came into existence. After this, a 'Water Bang' occurred on Earth, and the Earth was filled with water. Following this, life and various things related to it were created. Moreover, finally, a man appeared on Earth.

Scientists have not identified six eras or 'bangs' like this, but based on data that science has made available about the universe, it seems correct to say that the process of creation in the universe probably had these six periods. Science so far appears to support this classification. In this sense, this classification of six eras is indirectly scientific.

Science and Belief in God

Science is the expression of that knowledge of Nature about which the Quran (41:53) had predicted in these words:

We shall show them Our signs in the universe and within themselves until it becomes clear that this is the Truth. Is it not enough that your Lord is the witness of all things?

In the light of modern scientific findings, the new picture of the universe that has emerged resonates very closely with what was presented well in advance in the Quran. In this sense, modern scientific discoveries are, as it were, **Kitab-e Ilahi ke ishaaraat ki tafseel aur usi ke sath uski daleel bhi/a detailed explanation of, and elaboration on, indications given in the Quran, and along with this, evidence for the veracity of the Quran.**

According to modern scientific discoveries, the universe began some billion years ago. After that, passing through different stages of transformation, it arrived in its present form. The record of this entire journey can be found in various books. Besides, to feel it, one can visit a good planetarium.

The scientific study tells us that some 13.8 billion years ago, a 'super-atom' appeared in space. It was a collection of all the particles found in the present universe. Perhaps it was shaped like a football, with its particles sticking to each other with great intensity through an immense power of attraction. By known philosophical laws, these particles could not separate from each other and move outward on their own. An exceedingly powerful explosion, referred to as the 'Big Bang', occurred in the 'super-atom'. Immediately after that, the articles of the 'super-atom' began to scatter about, spreading in the outward direction with incredible velocity. After this, these particles coalesced in different forms in different locations in space. The astronomical bodies were called stars, planets, galaxies, etc.

This explosion in the 'super-atom' proves two things simultaneously. One is that there was a powerful Being who pre-existed in the universe, separate from the universe. Through Its willed intervention, this Being arranged for the 'Big Bang' to happen in the 'super-atom' and its particles to travel in the outward direction, which led to the formation of various astronomical bodies in the universe.

A second significant aspect of this event is the nature of the 'Big Bang' explosion. An explosion generally produces destructive results. From fire-crackers to bombs, almost every explosion, without exception, has this feature. However, the 'super-atom' explosion was, as an exception, non-destructive. On the contrary, it was immensely constructive, for it marked the beginning of the construction of the entire universe.

This exceptional event is evidence that the Creator of the universe is also the Lord and Master of the universe and that He possesses unlimited power. He has the exceptional ability to exercise complete control over events and, along with this, over their results, too.

The study tells us that this universe is an expanding universe. Like a balloon, it is constantly expanding in the outward direction. From this, it can be proven that the universe had a definite beginning. Had it been eternal, it would have ended by now on its expanding nature. It is proved that the universe has a beginning and that there must certainly be some pre-existing Being who caused it to begin. For a previously non-existent thing to come into being can only be possible if before it came into being, something or someone else existed who, through its will, caused it to come into being. It is convincing evidence for the existence of a Creator God who pre-existed in the universe and who caused it to come into being by His will.

There are uncountable phenomena in the universe that prove that the Planner and Administrator of the universe are just one. Had there been more than one Administrator, there would have been chaos and strife in the universe.

Consider the following facts to understand this point: The distance between Earth and the sun is around 93 million miles. This distance has been continuously maintained over millions of years. If any substantial change were to occur at this distance, it would have disastrous results. For example, if this distance increased to double, Earth would turn so cold that water, animals and humans would freeze. On the other hand, if this distance were to halve, Earth would become so hot that everything, including man, would burn up and be finished off.

It proves that the sun and Earth's God are the same. If Earth and the sun had two separate gods, both would want to run things according to their respective will, and then the distance between the sun and Earth would keep increasing or decreasing. Due to this irregularity, human civilization on Earth would have been impossible.

In the vast unknown universe, our planet Earth is a rare exception. Here there are countless things, like water, air and plants, that are essential for human life, whereas elsewhere in the vast space, as far as man has come to know so far, there is no place where these things are present. This exception reveals that this Earth did not come about through unconscious matter acting on its own, as atheists might argue. Instead, it must undoubtedly be the creative miracle of a conscious Being. Had it been the product of mere material forces, there would be many more such locales like Earth in the universe, and not just one.

Everything in our universe is exceedingly meaningful. The meaningfulness of things proves that a conscious Creator creates this world. No other explanation can account for this meaningfulness. For example, take Earth's size. The equatorial circumference of Earth is around 25,000 miles. This size is immensely significant. Had this figure been 50,000 miles, Earth's gravity would be so much that it would have halted the physical growth of the human body. Because of this, only dwarf-like people would be seen on Earth. On the other hand, if this figure had been 12,000 miles, Earth's gravity would

have been so low that it would not have been able to stop the growth of the human body, as a result of which human beings would be like palm trees! Besides this, various unfavourable conditions would have been produced to make all man's civilizational progress impossible.

If one reflects on these aspects, one learns that there is no option but to accept that there is indeed a Creator of this universe and that He is most definitely just one from the scientific point of view.

Zero-Defect Universe

Man does not know matters of the unseen realm. The Quran (7:188) says:

Say, "I have no power to benefit or do harm, save as God pleases. If I knew the unseen, I would have availed myself of an abundance of good, and no harm would have touched me [...]."

Man does not know the Unseen. He does not know what will happen in the future. He acts based on his knowledge of 'today', but he is entirely unaware of what will happen 'tomorrow'. In contrast, God is the Knower of the Unseen (besides the Seen). That is, He has complete knowledge of the Unseen. From this difference between man and God, we can obtain a principle of comparison—that is, it is in comparison that we can understand.

Using this principle, we can understand that no work done by man is without flaws, while, in contrast, all the examples of God's creation that are before us are flawless. No human management system is free from defects, but the solar system, which God has made, is an example of entirely zero-defect management.

This difference between man's handiwork and the handiwork of the One who created the world of Nature is definite evidence of the existence of a Creator of the universe.

The scientific study of the universe reveals that the universe is a zero-defect universe. For example, billions of astronomical bodies are in constant motion here, but in contrast to our cities, no accident ever happens in the vast space where these astronomical bodies travel. It is as if an accident-free traffic management system is established on a vast scale in the immense universe. Similarly, on Earth, Nature is at work in myriad ways, every moment and everywhere. These are, as it were, a vast industrial system. However, this system is functioning at a 'zero-defect industry' level.

The unparalleled control and this balance that these phenomena reveal clearly announce that behind them are a great, powerful and wise God.

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The universe is an entirely zero-defect universe. In the Quran (67:3-4), this aspect of the universe is related in this manner:

He created seven heavens, one above the other in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the Gracious One. Then look once again: can you see any flaw? Then look again and again. Finally, your gaze will come back to you, confused and exhausted.

Here the Quran highlights that the universe that God has created is flawless. When the above verses of the Quran were revealed, man did not know that the universe was flawless. He would see the sun and the moon, the seas and the mountains and feel awe. From this feeling was born the concept of Nature-worship. The actual **maqsud/purpose** of the Creator was that man should discover the flawlessness of the universe and, in this way, discover the power of the Creator. However, this universe aspect remained undiscovered by man for thousands of years.

With the advent of modern science, over the last 400 years or so, discoveries made in science are informing the man that a perfect level of meaningfulness characterizes the universe. The universe is well-planned. The universe is well-managed. The universe is well-designed. The universe is well-disciplined. Many scientists now believe that the universe is intelligent, so much so that this has become a regular subject in itself, on which a vast amount of literature, including many books, has been published.

In Newton's time, the universe used to be thought of as a mechanical universe. However, with further research, this notion was proved to be erroneous. Through investigation in different fields, it came to be widely believed in scientific circles that the universe is intelligent. To consider the universe as an 'intelligent universe' is, in other words, to accept that it is the creation of an intelligent Creator. There can be no other sensible meaning to this.

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During the Second World War, a concept emerged called 'Zero Defect Management'. Much literature has been produced on this subject. This concept spread rapidly in so-called 'developed' countries, where efforts were made to establish a zero-defect management system in their industries, just as prevails in the world of Nature. However, in this regard, they met with complete failure. Finally, it was accepted that no system made by man could be a zero-defect system. It was acknowledged that the concept of zero-defect management was not attainable by human beings, practically speaking.

The difference between the zero-defect system that prevails throughout the realm of Nature and the defect-ridden systems made by man is definite proof of the Creator's existence.

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Even as the evidence indicated that zero-defect management was not possible in man-made industries and organizations, scientific findings kept emerging that proved that

the system of Nature is established in a completely flawless manner. For example, the movement of the stars and the planets happens in an entirely predictable and zero-defect manner, going on for billions of years. If you want to know, for instance, at precisely what time on a particular date, several years later, the sun will rise and set at a specific location on Earth, you can find it out today itself. For example, if you want to know at what time on 15th April 2025 the sun will rise and set in New Delhi, you can find out well in advance that sunrise will be at 05:56 and sunset at 18:46. The timing of the sun rising and setting on a particular day in the future can be found with the same accuracy for any other place in the world.

The entire system of the physical universe is functioning with this same complete precision and predictability.

Reflect on the fact that the physical universe, directly functioning following the Creator's management, has been established on the principle of zero-defect management and has been functioning fully by this principle from the very beginning till now, over billions of years. The world of man presents a complete contrast to this. Man's projects are never free from defects in their planning and implementation.

Comparison of the functioning of man-made systems (where zero-defect management, despite all efforts, is impossible) with the system of Nature established by the Creator (which is entirely zero-defect) leads to the realization that there is indeed a Creator of the universe and that this Creator is a Supreme Being who is the Lord, Master and Sustainer of the universe. The difference between the human world and the world of Nature is clear and very definite evidence of God's existence.

The discovery, through modern science, of the flawless system of the universe resonates with what the following lines of the Quran (2:255) reveal about God:

God: there is no deity save Him, the Living, the Eternal One. Neither slumber nor sleep overtakes Him.

SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE FOR GOD

The Universe Is Inexplicable Without God

Albert Einstein is the most outstanding scientist of the 20th century. He was born in 1879 in Germany and died in 1955 in America. He received the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1921.

Einstein engaged in a deep study of the physical world. In his research, he found that the universe is exceedingly meaningful. In its every aspect, great wisdom is hidden. However, where did this meaningfulness and wisdom come into the universe? Einstein discovered immense wisdom and meaningfulness in the universe, but he could not discover the Mind behind this wisdom and meaningfulness.

Why did this great scientist face this predicament? Although he discovered meaningfulness in the system of the universe, he was unable to discover the Creator of this meaningful system. The fact is that without the concept of God, the universe becomes utterly meaningless. Only belief in God makes the meaningfulness of the universe comprehensible for man.

Einstein is said to have remarked:

The most incomprehensible thing about the world is that it is comprehensible.

We can phrase this statement as follows:

Without God, the world is incomprehensible. With God, it becomes comprehensible.

An Intellectual Exchange

On 30th March 2008, I met with two British gentlemen. One was the famous journalist Mark Tully, and the other was a Christian scholar, Dr Richard Cheetham, Bishop of Kingston. They wanted to know about Islam, so we had a detailed conversation about different subjects related to Islam.

Mr Tully said that in the Islamic belief system, belief in One God has fundamental importance. He asked if this was just a religious belief or if there was also some scientific proof for God's existence.

I said that in Islam, no article of faith is a mere dogmatic belief.

The fact is that the basis of the belief system of Islam is on the fixed and unchanging principles of Nature, known as 'scientific bases' today. Until a century ago, Newtonian mechanics prevailed in science, according to which the final unit of matter was the atom. At that time, the atom was indivisible, incapable of being divided. People believed that everything that existed was observable. Only arguments based on direct evidence or observation were considered valid in science. However, due to new research in nuclear science, the atom was split. Now, wave mechanics replaced classical physics. It impacted the principles of argument in science. This discovery strengthened the significance of the inferential argument. Scientists now accept that an inferential argument is as valid as a direct argument based on direct observation.

Following this change in the basis of scientific argument, proving the existence of God became as possible as it was to prove the existence of the subatomic particle known as the electron. As is known, the existence of the electron was proved through inferential argument or evidence. We cannot see the electron, but we can infer its existence. This same inferential argument was now available to prove the existence of God intellectually. We cannot see the Creator directly, but we can infer His existence—from the creation. The immense design and fine-tuning in the universe is clear proof of a designer of the universe or God.

Dr Richard Cheetham remarked that it was confirmed that present-day physicists were acknowledging that the immense meaningfulness of the universe testifies to the fact that the universe is the creation of some Mind but remarked that biologists do not corroborate this.

I responded by saying that what he said was true, but the biologists' stance was not based on any scientific reality. This opinion of theirs was based entirely on a false theory. Charles Darwin (d. 1802) had presented a wrong hypothesis in this regard, and then everyone accepted it as true.

Darwin studied different life forms and found considerable similarities in body structure between certain species. Thus, for example, there are certain similarities in the body structure of cats and tigers, goats and giraffes, and human beings and monkeys. Based on these sorts of similarities, Darwin hypothesised that, following so-called natural selection, an evolutionary process had occurred, through which one species was automatically transformed into another one.

However, Darwin's explanation of the similarities among different species was wrong. The fact is that these similarities indicate variety rather than affirming some hypothetical evolutionary process. Various types of life-form are visible to us, so the concept of variety proves itself. However, in contrast to this, we do not see one species turning into another species, nor do we see any intermediate species present. Thus, the Darwinian concept of the evolution of species is mere speculation; there is no solid proof at all.

God's Existence

How can one discover God?

Discovering God is not some academic issue. Instead, it is about a personal quest that every human being should embark on.

Every person has an innate desire to know that Being who has bestowed him or her with existence. I, too, like other people, was confronted with this issue. I was born in a family where the environment was religious. Because of this influence, I began to believe in God traditionally. Later, when my awareness matured, I wanted to reason out that belief. To reinvestigate this issue, I studied the relevant subjects.

As is known, the subject of God is related to three fields of knowledge: philosophy, science and religion. Here, I will relate some of my experiences with philosophy and science.

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I came across the famous French philosopher Descartes (d. 1650) during my studies. He famously said, "I think. Therefore I am".

This formula applies to the existence of man, but it is applicable in just the same manner to the existence of God. Expanding on the above statement by Descartes, one can say:

The existence of man makes the existence of God understandable.

This was my first philosophical argument concerning God's existence. I said: "I am; therefore, God is."

After this, I sought to study this issue through the scientific method.

As long as the study of science was limited to the macro world, only something that could be directly observed was regarded as valid. However, when the journey of the study of science moved on and arrived at the micro world, a significant change occurred. If earlier only observational argument was regarded as valid, now inferential argument began being regarded as similarly valid. The principle of argument from the seen to the unseen was now accepted as a proper argument and method in science.

This issue can be easily explained through simple examples. For example, if you want to count apples, you can say: "Two apples plus two apples make four apples". This is an example of an observational or direct argument.

An example of the inferential or indirect argument is Isaac Newton saw that an apple fell from a tree and landed on the ground. This was an observation. After this, he arrived at an inference—and that is, that there is a force of gravity on Earth that pulled the apple down. From the falling down of the apple, Newton inferred the existence of a force that he could not directly see but whose presence he could infer had caused the apple to fall. He surveyed other relevant data, and the point was verified that this inference that he had made was valid.

In quite the same manner, we cannot see God. However, we can infer that God exists from the universe's existence and the immense order, design, and precision in everything that the universe contains.

To understand the scientific methodology, I read many books. One such book was that of the famous British philosopher Bertrand Russell titled *Human Knowledge*. In this book, Russell says that there are two types of knowledge—knowledge of things and truths.

The observational method of argument is helpful for the discovery of things, which can be observed through one or more of our five senses, but the issue of God's existence is related to the subject of truth. In this matter, the sort of argument that is applicable is the inferential argument.

It was perhaps in 1965 that I met with a professor of philosophy. I talked with him about the existence of God. In the course of our conversation, he asked a question: "What criterion do you have to prove the existence of God?" I replied, "The same criterion that you have to prove anything else."

After this, I explained the methods mentioned earlier in the argument.I said that the issue of God's existence is related to the subject of truth. One can use the same criterion to prove the existence of God that one uses to prove the veracity of any truth.

Serious scholars have accepted this fact. For instance, Bertrand Russell acknowledged that theology generally uses the method of argument called 'argument from design to prove God's existence. According to Russell, this method is based completely on scientific logic. That is why this argument, in principle, is as valid as any other scientific argument. The gist of this argument is: "Where there is design, there is a designer." Applying this argument to the universe, one can say, "There is amazing design in every bit of the universe, so there is a Designer of the universe".

Who but the Divine Designer could have devised such amazing design that the universe displays? Referring to the signs in the universe, Ludwig Eduard Boltzmann (1844-1906), an Austrian physicist and philosopher, remarked:

Was it a God who wrote these signs, revealing nature's hidden and mysterious forces around me, which fill my heart with quiet joy?

The answer to Boltzmann's query is most definitely in the affirmative.

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Evidence for the existence of the Creator is abundant in the creation. Therefore, using the inferential method of argument, we can state that this evidence present in the creation points to the Creator's presence.

From the data that modern science has provided us about features of the creation of the universe, we can easily infer the existence of an All-Powerful Creator of the universe, as the examples below show:

1. Intelligent planning is very clearly evident in the universe. This planning is visible everywhere, from a tiny particle to the sun and the moon. Undoubtedly, this is evidence of a Supreme Mind behind this universe. The conviction of an unseen Creator being behind the visible creation is as scientific as is accepting the existence of unobservable X-rays on seeing an X-ray image.
2. Observation of things in the universe reveals that there are also exceptions along with uniformity. An exception is something that does not follow a general rule. Consider a simple example: Generally speaking, every person has five fingers on each hand, which is an almost uniform pattern. However, at the same time, each person's fingerprints are different and unique. This exception to a uniform pattern could not have been possible without the purposeful intervention of a superior Being, whom we call 'God'.

3. Planet Earth is located in the solar system, which, in turn, is located in the Milky Way galaxy, which is one of maybe 100 billion or so galaxies in the universe. A fascinating aspect of the Milky Way points to the Supreme Mind behind the universe. The middle region of the Milky Way is exceedingly hot. If our solar system had been located there, no form of life, including human life, could have been possible on Earth. However, strangely, our solar system is located at a distant corner of the Milky Way. Because of this, it is safe from the effects of the dangerous environment of the middle region of the Milky Way. This is clear evidence of planned intervention, and this planned intervention is clear evidence of a powerful Mind behind it.
4. There are several planets in the solar system, and one of them is our Earth. While revolving around the sun, Earth is also rotating around its axis. Nevertheless, the dual pathways of the Earth—one around its axis and the other around the sun—are firmly fixed, and deviation has never been noted in this regard. This phenomenon is inexplicable without accepting the existence of a Supreme Being who has established it this way and who has been maintaining it this way for billions of years.
5. It is said that the Milky Way galaxy alone might contain at least 100 billion stars and perhaps a somewhat similar number of planets. If you consider that there may be well over 100 billion galaxies in the universe, you can understand that the number of astronomical bodies must be mindboggling! Be that as it may, as far as we know, Earth is the only one where a life-support system suitable for a creature like a man is found among all the innumerable astronomical bodies in the universe.

A life-support system can be described as a natural system that provides all of the elements essential for maintaining life, including oxygen, food, control of temperature, etc. Because of this natural system on Earth, Earth is a livable place for creatures like humans. Unfortunately, not a single place of this sort has been found in the entire universe.

Here, on Earth, all that is needed to support life has been made available without any effort from human beings. Without this life-support system, the existence of man, or any other species, would have been entirely impossible. This unique life-support system is such solid evidence for the existence of God that no truly sensible person can sincerely deny it.

These are only a few innumerable examples that point to the existence of a Creator and Sustainer of the universe—or, in other words, God.

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This universe is undoubtedly a significant realm. Scientists are people who study aspects of the universe in great depth. They are often more familiar with and aware of the universe's meaningfulness than others. Thus, generally, scientists have acknowledged this phenomenon. Because of their particular mindset, many scientists avoid using the word 'God', but without taking God's name, they are compelled to admit to the reality that the word 'God' points to. For example, British mathematician, physicist and astronomer Arthur Eddington (d. 1944) acknowledged this reality by saying, "The stuff of the world is mind-stuff". Likewise, British scientists Sir James Jeans (d. 1946) wrote a book titled *The Mysterious Universe*, where he remarked that the universe bears witness to a mathematical mind. British astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle believed that the universe is intelligent, even authoring *The Intelligent Universe*.

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The existence of God is undoubtedly a proven reality in just the same way as any other proven reality. The existence of God is not a matter of some mysterious belief. Instead, it is an intellectually-accepted fact, just like any other intellectually-accepted fact. Now, the question is: Is God one, or are there many gods responsible for the creation and administration of the universe? In other words, which concept of God is valid: One based on polytheism, one based on monotheism, or what is called *tauhid* in Islam? On this point, evidence is entirely in support of *tauhid*.

At one time, superstitions were rife in the world, and many people believed that many gods controlled the universe—for example, a sun god, a moon god, a rain god, etc. However, today, this view does not have much support.

The British mathematician and scientist Isaac Newton (d. 1727) is considered one of the pioneers of modern science. He discovered the Law of Gravity when he saw an apple falling from an apple tree. Why did the apple not go up? Why did it come down? These questions led to the discovery that a specific force, the force of gravity, is at work on Earth. The theory is still regarded even today as an accepted principle in science.

Newton stated that four forces controlled the system of the universe. These four forces are:

1. *Gravitational Force*
2. *Electromagnetic Force*
3. *Strong Nuclear Force*
4. *Weak Nuclear Force*

At one time, scientists believed that through the interactions of these four forces, all the phenomena of the universe came into being. However, in line with its nature, science is always in quest of oneness. The scientific observation of the universe reveals that there is one law at work in the whole system of Nature. Thus, physics is continuously in search

of a unified theory. The 'conscience' of science is continuously engaged in reducing the number of forces of nature and discovering some such principle of nature that can explain all phenomena.

Abdus Salam (b. 1926), Sheldon Glashow (b. 1932) and Steven Weinberg (b. 1933) were jointly awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for research of this sort. They unified the strong and weak nuclear forces in a single mathematical scheme. This theory was named as G-S-W Theory. Through this, they proved that both these forces are one. In this way, they lessened the number of forces that were said to be behind the universe's functioning from four to three.

However, the scientific mind was not satisfied even with this three-figure. It wanted to reduce this figure further and bring it to one. This task was performed by British scientist Stephen Hawking (d. 2018), who was considered an influential name in theoretical physics. He proved that only one force controls the entire universe through complex mathematical calculations. This theory has now been accepted among the educated classes as a fact. It is referred to as 'single string theory' in general language. The single string theory provides a scientific basis supporting the belief in the One God. In addition, it provides a religious belief in the status of an intellectually-accepted truth. It can now be said on a purely scientific basis that there is a God of this universe, that this God is one and only one, and that the concept of God is purely scientific.

Although science restricts itself to the issue of 'What is and does not attempt to answer the question of 'Why?' it is a fact that the world that science has discovered is so complex and so amazing that after knowing this, a person cannot remain without being confronted by the 'Why?' question. Scientists are amazed today that a single law operates in the entire universe.

There can be no more convincing explanation than the single All-Powerful Creator.

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Once, when I delivered a talk on the subject of God's existence, a lady in the audience remarked that she agreed with what I had said, but she suggested that there was no need for a scientific argument to prove God's existence because, according to her, God is present inside ourselves.

Now, what this lady said was no simple matter. The fact is that there are two distinct concepts of God. One is *tauhid* or monotheism—belief in the One God as a personal God. The other is monism, which is based on an impersonal God. This is the same thing referred to as the 'Indwelling God'.

According to monism, God is a power, just as the force of gravity is power, present in everything. Although some Muslim Sufis also adopted the theory of monism, it is a

naturist/incorrect theory. The fact is that monism is a philosophical concept that has been incorporated into religion.

The concept of monism is found in some religious traditions. According to monism, God has no form of His own. He is a formless God. According to this notion, **God has no separate existence of His own/ Khuda ki ko alag has nahin. Whatever exists in the universe is all a manifestation with a form of this formless God/voh sab ki sab is bewujud Khuda ka wujudi izhar hai.** This concept is a philosophical one. Many philosophers accept God in this sense. They refer to God by words such as 'Spirit' or 'Idea', etc. This same philosophical concept has come to be incorporated as a religious belief in some religious traditions.

However, this concept of a formless God with no separate being or existence is merely baseless speculation. It has no evidential basis. The universe that we experience in creation is entire with form. Therefore, it is illogical to claim that a God who was a mere 'spirit' or 'idea' and **jiski koi apni koi hasti nahin thhi/who had no separate identity of His own,** brought innumerable forms into existence, all these being His forms.

The modern scientific study of the universe strongly suggests the presence of a Supreme Mind in the creation and administration of the universe, a Creator who is separate from the creation. It negates the monistic concept of God simultaneously as it testifies to the monotheistic understanding of God.

Science Confirms Religious Truths

If you cut a tree and then plant it in the soil, on the first day, it will appear to be green and verdant, but the very next day, its leaves will likely begin to wither, so much so that it will soon dry up and die. The same has been the case with atheism in the present era. Initially, it appeared as if the Age of Religion had ended and that human history had entered an age of irreligiousness that might last forever. However, soon, things began to change, and religion returned to human life with new strength and vigour.

Until around the end of the 19th century, 'Scientific Atheism' was dominant in the intellectual world. However, new scientific findings weakened 'Scientific Atheism' and rendered it completely weightless. For example, in the early 20th century, English physicist, astronomer and mathematician Sir James Jeans declared that the universe that modern science had discovered refused to accept a mechanical interpretation. Moreover, in the 21st century, many scientists interpret the universe to show that one cannot adequately explain the universe without accepting God.

In 1988, a book titled A Brief History of Time was authored by British theoretical physicist Stephen Hawking. According to the 'Big Bang' theory, ever since the universe began, it has been continuing to expand, and Hawking stated that this process is very well-calculated. **The initial rate of expansion of the universe had been established with exceeding accuracy and precision because this rate of expansion was very close to that**

critical rate that was needed to prevent the universe from collapsing on itself. (CHECK. P. 58, LAST PARA) This means that if the model of the 'Big Bang' is correct and from this time has begun, the universe's initial conditions must have been selected with exceeding care. Had this not been the case, the universe would have ended.

This phenomenon cannot be explained until it is accepted that the universe's expansion rate had been selected with exceeding care beforehand. Relating such details, Hawking, who is said to have been an atheist, writes:

It would be very difficult to explain why the universe should have begun in just this way, except as the act of a God who intended to create beings like us.

The fantastic quality of the universe is that it does not accept any interpretation other than a Divine one. The universe is a known phenomenon. It is not possible to deny its existence. This is why some of the best minds have been engaged in seeking its explanation and interpretation in every age. Some have claimed that the universe has always been in existence, eternal. Some have opined that it came about and is running by itself. Others have argued that a chain of cause and effect has given existence to everything in the universe. However, others have tried to prove the principle of evolution to be the creator of the universe. And so on. However, reality negates, rebuts and rejects all these explanations. The more knowledge man obtains about the system of the universe; the more hollow the claim appears to be that the cause of the universe is anything other than the One God. The very existence of the universe testifies that its cause is God. To consider anyone or anything other than God as the creator of the universe is only hollow speculation, in support of which there is no objective evidence whatsoever. All claims or theories that posit any factor other than God as the cause of the universe have been proven to be baseless in the light of modern scientific knowledge.

From Science to Realization of God

The purpose of the creation of man is described in the Quran (51:56) in these words: “I created the jinn and mankind only so that they might worship Me”. Here, “worship” of God has been interpreted by Abdullah ibn Abbas, a Companion of the Prophet, and his student Mujahid, as obtaining *marifat* or realization of God. In his commentary on the Quran, Ibn Kathir repeats this same thing. (CHECK THIS AGAINST THE URDU ORIGINAL—P.60)

The realization of God is connected with man's very being. Man has been fashioned as a creature who possesses free will. One definition of man is that he is a creature with the capacity for conceptual thinking. Conceptual thinking is an ability that no other creature possesses. For man, the realization of God is based on this unique ability. In this sense, for man, the criterion for the realization of God is the self-discovered realization of God.

It is this that is man's actual test. Man is required to develop his thinking power until he becomes capable of discovering his Creator at the level of self-discovery.

Two Levels of Realization of God

There are two levels of this discovery of God. The first level is discovering the Creator at the level of commonsense. The second level is discovering the Creator at the level of science. For the last thousands of years, man has desired to use his commonsense in an unadulterated manner and obtain the conscious realization of his Creator at the level of commonsense. There was only one condition for this discovery—and that was honesty. If a man lives with complete honesty, commonsense will be sufficient for him to discover God.

The second level of realization of God is scientific—recognizing the signs of the Creator hidden in Nature and then, through their help, arriving at the Creator's rational realisation. For the scientific realization of the Creator, man needed to have sufficient supporting scientific data about the creation to reflect and ponder on. Scientific realization of God is not possible through mere abstract intellectual thinking. It is possible only when the supporting data of science is available. The means to acquire this scientific data is knowledge of the laws of Nature. In ancient times, man did not have adequate knowledge of the laws of Nature. That is why the scientific realization of the Creator was not possible for a man then. However, in today's age, we have this knowledge, which is why the scientific realization of God is now possible for man.

The Creator who brought man into being also manages human history—that is, while keeping human freedom intact, He **takes man to the desired state/guides man** in line with His Creation Plan. **(p.61, para 3, lines 1-2)** The Creator does this work of His without abrogating human freedom. It is an exceedingly **psycheeda/complex/delicate work/thing**, and it is the Creator of the universe alone who can do this with His great power. Our work is to understand this Divine plan and not try to change it, which we cannot do.

Quran ke zariye...sainsi marifat kaha jata hai (Please translate: p. 61, last para, lines 1-3). However, the **Ahl-e iman/believers/Muslims** failed to perform this task. After this, God raised another **community/set of people** for this task (Quran 47:38)—the Christian peoples of Europe. The Europeans were so badly defeated in the Crusades that war no longer seemed an option for them. After this, they had no option but to re-plan their affairs and engage in efforts in some other field instead. Thus, instead of the battlefield, they gradually began to shift the direction of their efforts to the discovery of the laws of Nature.

The Italian scientist Galileo is called the 'father' of modern science. **it is because he was the person through whom the journey of modern science began in an organized form. (p. 62, para 2, lines 2-3)** This process continued for four centuries until it culminated in

the 20th century. Man now obtained all the scientific data necessary for the discovery of the Creator at the scientific or rational level.

Every particle of the universe created by God bears the stamp of the Creator as it were; then, Usney is ilm se angels ko waqif karaya. After this, He placed this habitat in the universe in a hidden form, which man could discover independently. (P.62, PARA 3) It is this hidden knowledge that, after its discovery, is known by the name of 'modern science'.

The Evidence of Science

What is science?

By 'science', it meant the study of the universe in an objective and organised manner in the light of proven or established principles. Science is the systematic knowledge of Nature.

Man has always reflected and pondered on the reality of the universe—first of all, in the light of traditional beliefs, after that, in the light of philosophical thinking, and then, in the light of accepted principles of science.

In the realm of the physical sciences, there have been three major paradigm shifts in the last four centuries or so. First, there was the Newtonian hypothesis that matter was the basic building block of the universe. It gave way to the Einsteinian paradigm in the early twentieth century, energy being the basic building block. Moreover, the latest in the present era is when more and more scientists accept consciousness as the basic building block. These shifts have had inevitable consequences for contemporary philosophy, helping crass materialism give way to spirituality in many circles

What can be called the 'Modern Scientific Age' began four centuries or so ago in western Europe. Gradually, an impression came to generally prevail that science was the highest means for knowing reality. It came to be believed that something roughscience alone was natural, while something that could not be proved. Initially, science was considered synonymous with just knowledge of material phenomena. Because religious realities did not appear to be proven through methods used for studying material phenomena, they were deemed to be 'unscientific'. However, the river of knowledge continued to flow ahead until the time came when science itself recognized the reality of phenomena that cannot be seen or otherwise directly observed—such as the subatomic particle known as the electron—but whose existence can be inferred. It admitted the validity of the inferential method. Moreover, through this same method, the existence of the Creator can be inferred from a study of the creation.

Science and the Concept of God

The intellectual history of recent decades shows that scientists are now increasingly accepting that the universe is the handiwork of a Supreme Mind. As Arthur Eddington remarked, “The world's stuff is mind-stuff”.

In 1927, the Belgian scientist Georges Lemaitre presented the ‘Big Bang’ theory. After that, further research was done on this subject until its status became an accepted event. Finally, in 1965, background radiation was discovered. From it, it came to be known that in **balai khala/outer space**, there are ripples that are remnants of the ‘Big Bang’. Referring to them, American scientist Joel Primack (b. 1945) remarked that they “are no less than the handwriting of God”.

George Smoot (b. 1945) is an American astrophysicist and cosmologist. In 2006, he was awarded the Nobel Prize in Physics for his work on the Cosmic Background Explorer. In 1992, when he announced the discovery of ripples in the heat radiation still arriving from the ‘Big Bang’, he remarked that it was “like seeing the face of God.”

Fine-Tuning

The scientific study tells us that the different components of the universe are exceedingly closely interrelated and are characterized by a great degree of fine-tuning. Therefore, there must be some explanation for these mind-boggling phenomena.

In recent decades, scientists have revealed plenty of good evidence that clearly shows that the universe is not eternal but, instead, that it was created—perhaps some 14 billion years ago, through the ‘Big Bang’. For several decades now, physicists have become increasingly aware that various fundamental parameters of this created universe appear to be very precisely finely tuned to allow the emergence of life. For instance, if the nuclear force were slightly stronger potent than it is, all of the hydrogen atoms in the infant universe would have fused with the other hydrogen atoms to make helium, and there would have been no hydrogen left—which would have meant that there would have been no water, which is so essential for life. On the other hand, had the nuclear force been substantially weaker than it is, the complex atoms needed for biology could not hold together. Alternatively, to take another example, if the ‘cosmic dark energy’ had been a little denser than it is, the universe would have expanded so rapidly that matter could never have pulled itself together to form stars.

On the other hand, if the ‘dark energy’ had been a little smaller, the universe would have collapsed long before stars had time to form. What would that mean? It would have meant no atoms and no life because atoms are made in stars, and there could have been no atoms and no life without stars.

The question is: “Why and how is it that these (and many other) parameters were in the very narrow range that allows for life on Earth?” Having been so finely-tuned for life on

Earth indicates the existence of a Fine-Tuner who finely-tuned them in such a way as to enable the universe to host life.

If the theory of Quantum Physics is applied to this issue, it can be said, “Probably there is a God”.

It is a purely scientific position. However, at the level of human intuition, God’s existence is as inevitable as man’s existence.

The meaningfulness that pervades the universe, the planning, and the flawless design indicate the existence of a Supreme Mind. In the universe, mathematical precision is found to such a high degree that it can be said that it indicates the existence of a mathematical Mind.

The presence of intelligent design in the universe created by God and its perfectness were already mentioned in the Quran, centuries before modern scientific discoveries that testify to them. However, through modern scientific study, we learnt the many details about them, which are, as it were, a commentary on the **ijmali bayan/succinct statements** of the Quran on this matter. Now that the river of knowledge has arrived here, the only thing that remains is to give the discovered ‘Intelligence’ or ‘Mind’ behind the universe the name of ‘God’, according to religious terminology.

Scientific Reasoning and Evidence for God’s Existence

In the 19th century, when the method of scientific observation came to be widely established, a new perspective emerged among scientists. According to it, only that thing is real that is observable, or that is verifiable by known scientific methods. Different schools of thought emerged in line with this thinking—for example, the French philosopher Auguste Comte (d. 1857) and the Logical Positivism of the German philosopher Rudolf Carnap (d. 1970).

These sorts of thinkers and philosophers tried for around a century to convince the minds of the whole world that something which could not be observed or verified by any of our five senses was unreal—and this included God. According to their theories, the concept of God had been proven to be baseless because it could not be ‘scientifically’ verified. However, discussions were still on in intellectual circles when science proved this claim to be baseless. This change in the attitude of science occurred in the wake of the discovery of the reality of what is called Quantum Mechanics. One result of this scientific theory was that atomic particles were thought of as waves. This scientific discovery negated the ancient Newtonian mechanics at the intellectual level, showing it worthy of rejection. The river of knowledge now, passing through the macro world, entered the micro-world—that is, besides things that can be seen, things that cannot be seen also became the subject of scientific study.

This far-reaching intellectual revolution occurred in the first half of the 20th century. Among the theoretical transformations that occurred as a result of it was a change in the principles of scientific reasoning. Prior to this intellectual revolution, it was believed that the only valid argument was direct—that is, an argument based on direct observation and experimentation. However, the inferential argument came to be regarded as an equally valid argument. When subatomic particles, despite being unobservable, came to be accepted as a scientific fact based on an inferential argument, it necessarily also meant that the inferential argument for the existence of God was a valid scientific argument.

God and the Hereafter

Our world is so significant that it is evidence that its Creator has a deep awareness of meaningfulness. Such a Creator cannot create a defective universe in its conclusion. A meaningful Creator will never create a meaningless universe.

However, despite all its meaningfulness, the universe is defective in its present state. Therefore, for its completion, it requires another world. It is this other world that the prophets of God have referred to as the world of the Hereafter.

The well-known American Christian missionary Billy Graham (d. 2018) once received an urgent message from a prominent American politician who requested to meet him. When he met him, the man said to him:

You see, I am an old man. Life has lost all meaning. I am going to take a fateful leap into the unknown. Young man, can you give me a ray of hope?

(The Secret of Happiness, by Billy Graham, p.2)

This question is not just of one American politician alone. Instead, every person who takes birth in this world is faced with this question. The rational answer to this question is to be had only in the belief in the world after death, or the Hereafter. This question will always remain unanswered if one does not accept another world after death.

All religions have a concept of the Hereafter, a life that follows the body's death. The world of the Hereafter is not an issue of religious belief alone. It is also an utterly intellectual phenomenon. The existence of the world of the Hereafter can be based on the very same intellectual criteria used to prove all other things in science.

Scientific Evidence for the Hereafter

In this regard, first of all, one should know what scientific proof is. According to contemporary science, scientific proof is not that one arrives at absolute certainty in a particular matter. This sort of certainty is not possible about anything. According to modern scientific understanding, its possibility or probability is proven for something to become proven intellectually. In modern science, theories that are accepted as **axiom/valid** are so accepted because they have been proven at the level of probability,

and not that at the observational level, one has obtained definite knowledge about them. **To consider the structure of the atom as reality is an example of this sort./Our present understanding of the structure of the atom is an example of this sort.**

To prove the existence of the world of the Hereafter, too, we can employ the same accepted scientific method. In such matters, the scientific method has three components: hypothesis, observation and verification. Suppose this 'three-point formula' is used concerning the question of the Hereafter. In that case, we certainly arrive at the favourable probability or supportive possibility of the existence of the Hereafter—and it has been said that arriving at a possibility is another name for certainty.

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By birth, every human being possesses two contradictory qualities. On the one hand, everyone has an intense desire to build a dream world of their own, a world per their ideal, where they can spend the 'tomorrow' period of their life in joy and comfort. However, on the other hand, every person is sunk in the contradiction that despite apparently obtaining many of the things they had desired, they can still not build and live in their desired world. Hence, boredom, sickness, accidents, old age, and, finally, in a period of generally less than 100 years, death—it is this that is man's story in this world.

It is the case with every human being. Everyone is born with the concept of an ideal embedded in their mind. However, each one takes their beautiful longings and dies before finding their desired world.

Here, an observation comes to the fore to help us understand this seeming conundrum. In the present world, the principle of pairs prevails. Here, everything is found in the form of a pair. Everything becomes complete when two of a pair unite: in atoms, a negative particle and a positive particle; in the world of stars, pair stars; in the world of plants, male and female; in the world of animals, masculine and feminine; and in the world of human beings, men and women.

This natural principle can be called the 'pair principle'. This principle informs us that everything completes itself by joining with its pair in this world. The answer to the above-mentioned apparent conundrum in this global principle is to be found. In line with the 'pair principle', this present world must have a pair world, another world, and its pair. It is only by meeting this other world that the present world can complete its existence.

In light of this observation, the point can be verified that the concept of the world of the Hereafter is genuine. The world of the Hereafter is the pair of the present world, joining with which the present world completes its existence. Without the Hereafter, our

present world is incomplete, in the same way as all other things in the universe remain incomplete without their pair.

A pair of worlds for a man—the present world and the world of the Hereafter—is something significant. After accepting the world of the Hereafter, human existence becomes a complete existence. Everything now obtains its meaningfulness. All things now fall into place. We can now understand that it is only in the Hereafter that man can find the satisfaction of all those fine longings and desires of his which simply cannot be fulfilled in this present world, provided he has lived appropriately while he was in this world.

Study reveals that nothing in this world has been made futilely without a purpose. Be it the sun or the moon, insects, trees, minerals or various gases, all of these things have been created in line with some purpose, and they are fulfilling it. However, there is only one thing in this world that seems to be without purpose—and that is the beautiful desires and longings embedded inside every human being by birth itself. No person is devoid of these desires and longings. Therefore, when everything else in this world has been made with a definite purpose, man's finer desires and longings, too, must have a real destination. In a universe where everything is purposeful, man's finer desires and longings cannot be purposeless.

Indeed, these finer desires and longings, too, are **a sochi samjhi/planned/deliberate** creation. There is a very definite and **clear/wazey** purpose for their existence. However, this purpose cannot be fulfilled in the present world. These desires and longings are limitless, and they can be fulfilled only in a limitless world—the name for this limitless world in the Hereafter.

Proper Framework

The concept of the Hereafter provides us with a framework in which life and everything in it can find its satisfactory explanation. Through this concept, the reality of Heaven and Hell becomes clear. Heaven is, as it were, the resting-place for the virtuous devotees of God, while Hell is the place for punishment for those who revolt against God and ally with evil.

An understanding that emerges in line with this is that the present world has been made as a testing ground while the next world will obtain one's final result. Man has been made by birth as an **eternal/abdi** creature. Every person has been given a distinct **shaksiyat/personality/self** that will always remain alive. That said, man's life is like an iceberg. A tiny portion of the iceberg is visible above the sea's surface, while the rest of it, a much more significant portion, is invisible, being below the sea's surface. In the same way, man's lifespan is divided into two parts: one, a tiny portion, has been placed in the present world, while a considerable portion—which will continue forever—has been kept in the world of the Hereafter.

Everything in the present world is a test paper for man. Everything in this world exists to **complete/develop** his personality. For example, the present world is filled with different sorts of bitterness. It is so in order that, passing through these experiences, man can give evidence that he can live with positive feelings even in adverse conditions. Only people with such a positive personality will be admitted to the ideal world of Paradise. In contrast, those who fall prey to reaction and become negative amid negative experiences themselves will be deemed unqualified for Paradise. These people with a negative personalities will be dumped in the dustbin of the universe, from where they will never be able to emerge.

Satisfactory Explanation

In the light of this, it can be said that in the event of accepting the world of the Hereafter, one obtains a satisfactory explanation of all known phenomena. In contrast, in the event of not accepting the reality of the world of the Hereafter, everything remains inexplicable, and the present world appears to be woefully incomplete and utterly absurd.

In accepting the world of the Hereafter, the fact that many truthful and virtuous people depart from the world while having received no reward for their goodness here becomes understandable, for we now know that they shall receive justice in the Hereafter.

Without the concept of the Hereafter, we cannot understand why many people engage in evil but do not receive any punishment for their wickedness here. However, on accepting the reality of the Hereafter, one gets a satisfactory answer, for one learns that the unjust will have to face punishment in the Hereafter for all their actions.

Similarly, in the event of not accepting the reality of the Hereafter, one cannot understand how and why it is that man takes birth here with a concept of an ideal world, but each person finally departs from this world without obtaining this ideal world. By accepting the reality of the Hereafter, this dilemma is fully resolved. Man can now live in this present world with the conviction that he might obtain in the world after death the things he desired but could not obtain in the world before death.

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In this limitless world of the Hereafter, the virtuous people will be admitted into Paradise, which will be filled with every sort of joy and comfort. However, in contrast to them, those people who proved to be evil in the present world will, in the world of the Hereafter, be cast into the universal dustbin, where they will be compelled to receive eternal punishment for their wickedness.

The Reality of Paradise

What is Paradise? Paradise is the answer to man's search. Man finds himself in such a world where he has the status of a strange exception.

Besides man, every component of the vast universe is complete in itself. Therefore, it is the only man who is not complete in himself.

The rest of the entire universe is a zero-defect universe. It is the only man who, exceptionally, has defects.

In the universe, there is certainly all around. However, in contrast to this, uncertainty prevails in man's world.

Fear is nowhere visible in the rest of the universe, but man is always afflicted with fear and apprehension.

In the rest of the universe, satisfaction prevails, while there is a state of pervasive dissatisfaction in man's life.

In the whole of the universe, man is the only creature who is sunk in the feeling that whatever he wanted, he did not get.

The rest of the universe is an evil-free universe, but man is, as an exception, afflicted with the issue of what is called the 'problem of evil'.

Paradise is the answer to these seeming conundrums. Factoring in the reality of Paradise, we can understand that for man, too, all that is fully available that the rest of the universe has got, with only this difference—that the rest of the universe is getting what it 'seeks' in the 'today', whereas man can obtain what he seeks in the 'tomorrow'—in the world of Paradise—if he leads his life here in the proper manner.

The Hereafter and Human Nature

Questions related to God and the Hereafter are ostensibly related to the Unseen world, but they are an essential and indispensable part of human nature. Man's innate nature knows the issues of God and the Hereafter as a fact.

The fact is that there are two levels of realization of God—the rational and the natural. God-realization at the rational level is only the initial stage of this realization, whereas to have certainty about the existence of God and the Hereafter at the natural level is the highest level of God-realization. The purpose of using rational arguments about God and the Hereafter is only so that the veils of doubt can be lifted from man's mind, and he is taken to the position where he can accept the reality of God and the Hereafter as at least possible truths. Using argument, evidence and logic about God and the Hereafter bring man to that intellectual level where he can become ready to accept their existence.

Every person has eyes that can 'see' God and recognize the reality of the Hereafter, but there is a curtain of conditioning that covers these eyes. Logical evidence breaks this conditioning or mental block and removes this artificial curtain placed over the eyes of man's nature. After this, man begins to 'see' God and the Hereafter. He now develops complete certainty about the existence of the invisible God and the reality of the Hereafter, just as a child is sure of his mother's existence even though he has not seen himself coming out of her womb.

The issue of God and the Hereafter remains a subject of logical debate only till the artificial curtain that covers man's mind is not removed. When this curtain is lifted through reflection and thinking or logical argument, man recognizes God in line with his inner realization. God now becomes for him the most known of all that is known. The task of logical evidence is only to take a person up to the door of man's innate nature. As soon as this door is opened, man finds God in such a way as if he knew God from before itself.

If a blindfold is tied around a person's eyes, one might need to resort to logical arguments to prove the sun's existence. However, when the blindfold is removed, he does not need any arguments to accept the sun. He can see the sun directly, in a natural way. The same is the case with awareness of God's existence. The consciousness of God is deeply embedded in human nature. The real need is to lift the curtain of conditioning over man's innate nature. Through arguments or evidence, when this curtain is lifted, man begins to 'see' God with even more certainty than a man who sees the sun with his own eyes.

Divine Revelation and Inspiration

The Quran (16:68) says:

Your Lord inspired the bee, saying, "Make your homes in the mountains, in the trees, and the structures men erect."

One learns that some signs are similar to Divine revelation/wahy se mushabihat rakhti hai among animals. Therefore, the study of these signs makes the issue of Divine revelation more comprehensible for us.

Revelation indicates the coming of guidance from an external **means/source**. A study of animals reveals that this sort of means/source of knowledge is present. Certain features are found among animals that cannot be explained other than by accepting that they receive guidance from outside themselves. Among these traits is the migration of particular creatures. The migration, especially of birds and fish, contains sure signs that can help us better understand the phenomena of Divine revelation and inspiration phenomena.

Many types of birds periodically migrate from one part of the world to another in search of food or following the change of seasons. First, they leave their actual locations and head to more appropriate places at a great distance. Then, after a certain period, they return to their former locations.

A great deal of study has been done on these birds. As a result, it has been learnt that their migratory journeys are not some purposeless flying about. Instead, they reflect a very high level of organization, as meaningful as any well-planned journey of human beings. Further, through observation, it has also been found that these flights take place in a highly accurate manner on well-designed flyways.

The phenomenon of the migratory journeys of these birds is genuinely remarkable. For human beings to go from one place to another becomes possible only when they have obtained detailed information about the route and the destination from some external source. These external means include hearing from others, reading other people's research findings, consulting guidebooks, and electronic devices that provide travel information. If man were cut off from this sort of information accumulated over time, he would not be able to do anything. Today, when the captain of a ship enters the sea and takes his ship from one coast of the ocean to another, or the pilot of an aeroplane takes off from one continent and lands on another, behind his action is presented the knowledge of a vast number of years of human experience.

However, birds have no means of acquiring knowledge for their migratory journeys. They are completely cut off from such means of information. There is no mutual exchange of information among birds as happens among humans. Because of this, one bird cannot benefit from another bird's travel experiences and gather information about travel routes from them. No bird pens down route details in the form of a book so that other birds can obtain guidance by reading it. However, despite being utterly bereft of such facilities, birds engage in long-distance travel just as humans do. They fly with fantastic accuracy from one location to another, like a rocket zipping around in space directed through radio control.

The migratory flights of birds follow specific routes, sometimes entirely well-defined, over long distances, as in the case of the routes of some birds shown in the map below:

PLEASE PROVIDE THE MAP HERE, WHICH APPEARS ON P. 85 OF THE URDU TEXT

This map shows the transcontinental journeys of certain birds. It indicates that some birds leave Russia and other European countries in winter and head toward warmer parts of the world, including Africa and Asia. The birds do not leave their locations and ignorantly fly off randomly. Instead, their routes are determined accurately, following what is most suitable for them. They adopt those routes in which they have to pass over the least possible stretches of the sea because over dry land, they can come down if and when they need to, but for them to land on the sea is not possible.

One flock of these birds, coming from Europe, reaches a point where they encounter the Caspian Sea. Here, they turn. Departing from the edge of the Caspian Sea, they fly into Asia. The second group of birds flies till it reaches the Black Sea. There, they divide into two groups. One group travels by the western coast of the Black Sea, and the other by the eastern coast, till they enter Asia. The third set of birds comes to Bulgaria and turns towards Turkey. Then, flying over coastal Syria and Lebanon, they arrive at Suez. From there, they enter Egypt and advance further into Africa. The fourth set of birds passes over Greece and crosses the sea in a region where it is the narrowest, clearly adopting this route so that they fly as little as possible over the sea. The fifth group of birds travels towards France and then, turning towards Spain, arrives near Gibraltar, where the sea is only around 10 miles wide. To cross the sea, the birds choose this most appropriate location. From here, they fly over the sea and land in Africa.

The journeys of these birds are truly unique. When human beings go on these sorts of lengthy journeys, they take the help of many different instruments and sources of information. However, these birds have neither a human mind nor access to various information-providing gadgets. How, then, do they manage to undertake such complicated journeys successfully?

A scholar contends that “Birds have evolved a highly efficient means for travelling swiftly over long distances with great energy economy”. However, these are just words. The reality is that there is nothing that can prove that the birds have developed this amazing ability through any so-called evolutionary process.

To explain this phenomenon, there can be only two possibilities. One possibility is that these birds have full knowledge of the geography of Europe, Asia and Africa and of the seas on the way, with the help of which they can complete their long journeys with fantastic accuracy. Unfortunately, however, no research proves this. On the contrary, the birds are bereft of geographical knowledge according to all our information.

The only other possibility is that some ‘Knowledgeable Geographer’ is guiding the birds, that there is some hidden sort of remote control that provides the birds with continuous guidance, in the same way as rockets are continuously guided through radio control.

The second scenario seems more likely. It also makes fully comprehensible the concept of Divine revelation.

There are features in creatures like migratory birds that cannot be explained without accepting that they are obtaining guidance from an external treasury of knowledge. The name for this in religious language is ‘Divine Revelation’. The study of the life of such creatures makes the issue of Divine revelation more understandable for us. Moreover, for something to be understood as a possibility or probability, one must have certainty about its veracity.

Divine revelation means that God sends His guidance upon a person through His makhfi/hidden means. This guidance explains what man should do and should not do. Between God and servant (a prophet), **this itesal/link of wahy/Divine revelation cannot be physically seen**. Some people might ask, “Why should we believe it?”

However, reflecting on the migratory journeys of certain birds, the phenomenon of guidance, like Divine revelation, becomes more evident to us. The birds’ travelling with incredible accuracy makes the issue of Divine inspiration more understandable for us because no correct explanation of these birds’ journeys can be made other than by accepting that the birds are receiving some hidden sort of guidance from outside them. When inside the birds, no known cause of this is present; it must be deemed to be coming from an external source.

Please translate the last para on p. 85.

The Journey of Knowledge

The Quran was revealed in the seventh century CE. At that time, a culture of superstition prevailed across the whole world. After the Quran, a process of intellectual discoveries began. This process arrived at its culmination in the 20th century. It is intellectual proof of the veracity of the Quran that the research findings of later times went on to verify the statements of the Quran. In this regard, these words of Sir James Jeans are very pertinent:

The stream of knowledge is heading towards a non-mechanical reality; the universe begins to look more like a great thought than like a great machine.

(James Jeans, *The Mysterious Universe*, p. 137)

This point was made sometime in the 1930s by an eminent British scientist. After this, scientific discoveries verified that the concept of Ultimate Reality given in the Quran is genuine. During this period, through scientific discoveries, atheistic ideas and notions kept being demolished and conceptions based on the existence of the One God, as described in the Quran, kept on becoming proven.

For example, ancient atheists believed that the universe is eternal and has been in existence since time immemorial. If the universe were indeed eternal, it would mean that it had not been created, so there would be no question of there being a Creator of the universe. Atheists used this claim to ‘prove’ that there is no need to believe in the Creator. However, the scientific findings of recent times have proved that the universe had a definite beginning (according to many scientists, some 13.8 billion years ago, in the form of the Big Bang), which points to the need for a Creator who caused the universe to come into being.

Likewise, ancient atheists believed that there is no order in the universe, but from modern scientific findings, it has been proven that a special order pervades the entire cosmos, clearly indicating the existence of an Intelligent Designer or the One God.

All the discoveries of science verify the religion of monotheism, whether directly or indirectly.

Power and Powerlessness

Albert Einstein expressed a fundamental principle of the physical world in the following statement: “Energy cannot be created or destroyed”.

This phenomenon is evidence of the Creator’s absolute power. Man can only use the present world. He does not have the power to change its essential nature, cancel its laws, or destroy it. We also learn something about man’s actual status in the present world. Man is in this world not in the status of a master but, instead, in the status of a subordinate. This situation is called a ‘test’ in the language of religion. A man comes into this world only so that, staying here for a limited period, he can complete ‘writing’ his ‘test-paper’, as it were. After this, he will go away from here to the world of the Hereafter, where his eternal future will be decided based on his performance in the test that he has undergone while he was on Earth. He has no **mutlaq** power more than this.

Some people, despairing of the conditions of the world, decide to commit suicide. They think that in this way, they can eliminate themselves. However, this is not possible. Just as that energy that appears in the form of matter cannot be destroyed, it is impossible to destroy that energy that has assumed the form of man. It is within the power of man to commit suicide, but to extinguish himself is not within his power. This fact symbolically conveys what man’s situation truly is in this world.

Man has the power to deny the reality of a fact, but to change a fact is not possible for him. Man has the power to engage in **sarkashi/rebellion against God**, but he cannot save himself from the consequences of such an action. Man has the power to refuse to accept moral boundaries, but he cannot eradicate the desirability of morality from the universe. Man has the right to do what he wants, but he does not have the right to give what he desires the status of a universal principle in line with which the decision of all people will be made. In this world, man is free, but his freedom is limited, not unlimited.

The Physical Testifies to the Metaphysical

In 1977, an encyclopaedia was published in London called *The Encyclopaedia of Ignorance*. Its cover page prominently displayed these words: “Everything you ever wanted to know about the unknown”.

In this volume, 60 famous scientists surveyed different fields and mentioned things that most people know little or nothing about. The encyclopedia contained papers on things that we do not know, matters which lie on the edge of knowledge.

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There is so much about the universe that we still do not understand. The universe is such an astounding phenomenon that its satisfactory explanation is not possible without accepting that it has a Creator. Scientific study reveals **adai tanasub/a numerical balance/mathematical proportionality** in the universe. This is evidence that a Supreme Mind was at work in its creation. In the structure of man's body itself, extraordinary wisdom is visible that no material explanation can be adequate to account for it. The different parts of the body that work with immense accuracy result from a highly delicate design and order. In the scientific sense, sound is the name for some waves, but these waves, entering man's brain, assume the form of meaningful speech. These amazing things found in our world are definite evidence that this world is not some chance accident but that it has come into line with a well-thought-out plan. It indicates the existence of a grand Planner behind the world, the One Creator God, a Supreme Mind that is also controlling it. Nothing else can explain the order and meaningfulness of the universe, which modern science has so brilliantly unravelled for us.

In the light of modern scientific findings, it can be said that the river of man's knowledge is advancing towards the acknowledgement of God. The research findings of the physical world that have emerged in recent times are leading man towards a metaphysical destination. In every field of scientific knowledge, when researchers move ahead in their search, they finally arrive at a place where it appears that the limits of physical laws have been reached and that for a proper understanding of things, there is no choice but to recognize the role of the metaphysical.

Knowledge Testifies

The Quran (84:119-20) says:

[...] you will progress from stage to stage. What is wrong with them that they do not believe?

These verses of the Quran were revealed in the early seventh century. **A statement was made therein, referring to a phenomenon extending from the seventh century into the future. Events later proved this prediction of the Quran to be accurate. (p. 102, lines 8-10) [THIS POINT IS NOT CLEAR. PLEASE ELABORATE. Can we say instead,** The later progress of scientific knowledge of the universe, over the centuries, proved this statement of the Quran to be true. ??????] This is proof of the fact that the Quran is from God, the Knower of the Unseen because no one other than the Knower of the Unseen has the power to issue such a statement about the future.

Man's study of the universe continued over the centuries. Arriving in the era of Isaac Newton, it was assumed that the building block of the universe was the matter. However, the journey of human knowledge went further ahead, and later research findings rebutted the above hypothesis. In the era of Einstein, the hypothesis came to

prevail that the building block of the universe is energy, but the journey of human knowledge moved ahead. Later research showed that this hypothesis was not correct. In the period of Fred Hoyle, it was discovered that the building block of the universe was intelligence. However, the journey of human knowledge continued until, in the 21st century, it was discovered that intelligent design pervades the entire universe.

It is convincing proof of the existence of God. The design indicates a designer and conscious activity on the designer's part. If the universe is characterized by design, it must be the handiwork of a grand Designer. This Designer can be no one but the Creator, the One God.

God, the Greatest Reality

Sir Michael Francis Atiyah (1929-2019), a famous British mathematician, remarked that God is a mathematician. Likewise, another famous British scholar, Sir James Jeans, suggested that the universe was the handiwork of a mathematician. God was an artist to the famous Spanish artist Pablo Picasso (1881-1973).

Anyone who observes the universe with sufficient depth feels that there is someone else present who is greater and more powerful than man. The mathematician sees such high-level mathematical accuracy in the universe that he forgets his mathematics and cries out, "God is a very big mathematician!" When an artist sees the universe through his particular perspective, such beautiful art appears before him that his art appears utterly insignificant in his own eyes, and he calls out, "God is the greatest artist!" When a sagacious person casts his glance at the amazing wisdom present in every bit of the universe, he is astounded that someone else is more intelligent than all human beings and recognizes the Creator's existence.

The fact is that God is the greatest mathematician, the greatest artist and the wisest of all, and, along with this, much, much more. The person who does not see the signs of God in the universe is blind, as also the person who, even on seeing them, does not accept them for what they indeed are.

DENIAL OF GOD: AN ANALYSIS

Limitless Universe, Human Limitedness

For the last several centuries, man has been engaged in the scientific study of the universe. Many great minds have been engaged in this work. This scientific research has shown that the universe is so vast that it is simply impossible for man to encompass it. According to the latest scientific findings, man's knowledge has barely covered around 5% of the universe. Moreover, even about this 5% or so portion, the limitedness of man's knowledge is that the more we discover, the more we learn how little we know about things.

To know about the creation is to know about its Creator. Given that man has been able to know only about 5% of the creation, for someone to insist that he be given complete information about the Creator before accepting Him. When man's state is such that he is very far from having acquired full knowledge of the creation, how can he obtain complete knowledge about the Creator?

The existence of the creation is within space and time, while the Creator's existence is beyond space and time. When a man is so limited that he cannot encompass things within space and time, how will he be able to encompass something beyond space and time? In this world, man can discover God only at the level of **ijz, not at the level of knowledge (haqiqat yeh hai ki is duniya mai insan Khuda ko sirf ijz ki sateh par daryaft kar sakta hai na ki ilm ki sateh par.**(P. 107, LAST TWO LINES)

Belief in God

Atheists claim that God has no real existence and that the idea of God is a product of the human mind. They say that God is a great invention by man. However, this is only wordplay. The more proper thing is to say this: "Man is a great creation of God".

Intellectual reflection on God's existence began first of all in philosophy. However, philosophers could not arrive at any definite conclusion on this matter. After Galileo and Newton, the process of scientific reflection began. The subject matter of science is not the Creator as such, but, instead, what science calls 'Nature'. However, what is 'Nature'? It is but another name for the creation of the Creator. Thus, the subject matter of science is the study of creation without reference to the Creator.

In a scientific study, firstly in Newton's era, it was believed that the world had a mechanical design. After this, in the era of Ernest Rutherford (1871-1937), it came to be known that the world has a meaningful design. After this, the era of Fred Hoyle arrived, when it was discovered that the universe is characterized by intelligent design.

Keeping these discoveries in mind, it would be correct to say that God's existence has already been discovered at the intellectual level and that now the whole issue is only one of nomenclature—that is, what the name of this discovered reality should be. Some philosophers might refer to this reality as 'World Spirit'. Science is calling it 'Intelligent Design'. In the language of people of religious faith, the name of this same reality is 'God'.

Science discovered only the creation, but along with the discovery of the creation, the Creator automatically becomes discovered.

Arguments of Opponents of Religion

Atheists might argue that with the advance in the knowledge of the universe in recent centuries, all religious beliefs regarding God are false. They might contend that religion is not based on any actual reality and that it is only a product of man's desire to seek an

explanation for the universe. They might claim that paucity of information led our ancestors to those 'wrong' answers called 'God' and 'religion'. They might contend that just as man has corrected his ways in other matters due to intellectual advancement, he must now correct himself regarding the universe's religious beliefs.

According to this way of thinking, religion is an unreal explanation for a natural phenomenon. In earlier times, it is argued, because man's knowledge was minimal, he could not acquire a correct explanation of phenomena, and so, in the name of religion, he established various absurd hypotheses. However, according to this perspective, the global phenomenon of progressive evolution has extricated a man from this darkness, and now, in the light of modern knowledge, it has become possible that instead of clinging to baseless religious beliefs, man can find out the reality of things through purely experimental and observational methods. Thus, it is claimed that all those things that were earlier believed to be the result of supernatural causes can now be explained entirely through natural causes. Modern methods of research, it is argued, have informed us that to believe in the existence of God was not the result of any discovery by man but that, instead, it was simply speculation from the days of ignorance which, after the spread of the light of scientific knowledge, has been proven to be false. Thus, for instance, British writer Julian Huxley (d. 1975), who was possibly a hardened atheist, writes:

Newton showed that God did not control the movements of the planets. Laplace, in a famous aphorism, affirmed that astronomy did not need the god hypothesis; Darwin and Pasteur between them did the same for biology; and in our century, the rise of scientific psychology and the extension of historical knowledge have removed gods to a position where they are no longer of value in interpreting human behaviour and cannot be supposed to control human history or interfere with human affairs.

(Julian Huxley, *Religion Without Revelation*, 1958).

In the physical world, the 'hero' of this revolution was Newton, who presented the theory that specific unchangeable laws bind the universe. There are some laws by which all astronomical bodies are in motion. Later on, innumerable people further advanced this research, so much so that all phenomena in the Earth and the skies began to be seen as in line with a determined and fixed system, which was given the name of 'The Laws of Nature'. Following this discovery, the idea that there is an active and powerful personal God behind the universe who is running it and who cares for human beings began to lose currency. People began attributing to 'The Laws of Nature' many of the earlier roles attributed to God. For growing numbers of people, especially in the West, the maximum concession they were willing to make was for a God who set the universe in motion in the beginning and has had nothing to do with it. Thus, in the beginning, people kept believing in God in the capacity of **First Mover/Muharik-e Aaval**. One

scholar came up with the idea that God had made this universe in the same way a watchmaker makes a watch: gathering the parts of the watch, giving them a particular structure and having no relation with the final product. However, later, David Hume (1711-1776) objected to this, one of his arguments being that we have no experience of world-making. With a watch, we know it has to be created by a watch-maker because we can observe it being made this way and compare it to the making of other similar watches to deduce they have similar causes in their creation. However, we have no experience of the universe's creation (or any other universe's creation to compare our universe to) and never will; therefore, it would be illogical to infer that an intelligent Designer has created our universe in the same way that a watch has been.

According to atheists, the advance of science and the spread of knowledge has shown man the truth of things that he had not hitherto understood, because of which he had wrongly attributed them to some 'imaginary' supernatural force. Events and phenomena in his surroundings that man lacked proper knowledge of were declared to be a miracle of that supernatural force, but now science has shown them to be the result of entirely natural forces. Earlier, there were certain links in certain events that man did not know, because of which he could not understand why these events were occurring, so he attributed them to some God. However, now because we know all the links in these events, we know the events and why and how they happen—entirely because of natural causes and having nothing to do with a God.

For example, earlier, man did not know the truth about the phenomena of the rising and the setting of the sun. That is why atheists might argue that a man came to believe that there is some God who takes the sun out and makes it rise and causes it to set—and in this way, the notion of a supernatural force was born. However, now that we know that the rising and the sun's setting happens because of an entirely natural cause—the rotation of Earth around its axis—there is no need to believe in God to explain this phenomenon. In the same way, atheists would contend, all those other phenomena regarding which it was earlier thought that some supernatural force was at work behind them have, in the wake of modern scientific findings, come to be known to be the result of the actions and reactions of entirely natural forces, forces that are known to us. Thus, atheists might argue that after coming to know the natural causes of events and phenomena, there is no need to account for them by assuming the existence of a God or some other such supernatural force.

This argument can be expressed as follows:

If a rainbow is caused by the refraction of the sun's rays as they fall on raindrops, it is wrong to say they are God's sign in the sky.

Atheists might remark:

If events are due to natural causes, they are not due to supernatural causes.

Atheists would say that from the study of the universe, it has come to be known that here whatever events are happening following determined laws of Nature. Hence, to explain them, there is no need to posit the existence of an unknown God because there are known natural laws that explain these events.

The best answer to this argument is these words of a particular Christian scholar: "Nature is a fact, not an explanation." Nature or 'The Laws of Nature cannot be the final explanation of such phenomena because the question arises: "Who or what made Nature and the Laws of Nature?"

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The atheists' actual argument can be responded to by asking, "What or Who caused the laws of Nature to come into existence?" Man has indeed discovered various laws of Nature. However, 'the laws of Nature' are not the answer to the question in response to which religion has come into being. Religion informs us about the Ultimate Cause that is working behind the universe, which also brought the laws of Nature into being, whereas the discovery of the laws of Nature is only related to the external structure of the universe. 'The 'Laws of Nature' are only a secondary cause of the various phenomena they are used to describe; the primary or Ultimate Cause is that Being or Force that caused the laws of Nature to come into being and be just the way they are. Moreover, in the language of religion, this primary or Ultimate Cause is called 'God'. Whatever modern science tells us are only further details of various phenomena found in the universe and not the actual or final explanation of these phenomena.

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The complete knowledge of science is related to the 'what' of things. The 'why' aspect is outside its reach, whereas the ultimate explanation of something is related to this latter aspect, which only religion can answer satisfactorily.

One can understand this with the help of an example. A hen lays eggs that have a strong shell. A chick is nourished inside the protective shell of its egg. When the shell breaks, the chick comes out into the world. Now, how does it happen that the shell breaks and the chick that is not more than a bit of flesh emerge from it? In ancient times, many people might have said: "God does it like this". In modern times, through observation through a microscope, it has come to be known that when 21 days is about to get over, a small, hard horn appears on the chick's beak. With the help of this horn, the chick breaks its shell and comes out. After completing its work, the horn automatically **drops off/falls off/chhid jati hai** a few days after the chick's birth.

According to the worldview of the opponents of religion, this phenomenon proves that the ancient belief that the cause of the chick's emergence from the egg is God is wrong because the 'eye' of the microscope very clearly shows us that there is a 21-day law that causes a horn to appear on the chick's beak, which the chick uses to break its shell and

emerge out of the egg. However, this argument is nothing but a misunderstanding. All that modern scientific observation has shown us in this regard is one additional step of the phenomenon of the chick's emergence from its shell. It has not told us the actual or ultimate cause of the phenomenon. Following the observation about the horn that emerges on the chick's beak, which the chick uses to crack the shell of the egg, the difference that has come about in the situation is nothing more than this: earlier, the question was about how the shell of the egg breaks, and now the issue was extended to ask how the horn-like feature emerged on the chick's beak! The chick using its 'horn' is only an intermediate step of the phenomenon of the chick coming out of the eggshell; it is not the ultimate cause of the phenomenon. The ultimate cause of the phenomenon will come to be known only when we can come to know what or who it is that made the horn appear on the chick's beak—in other words, that Ultimate Cause that had prior knowledge of the chick's need for a tool to help it to come out of its shell and which compelled a bit of matter to appear, right on time, after 21 days, on the chick's beak, in the form of a horn, which, after finishing its work, **drops off** on its own.

In other words, earlier, the question was, "How does the shell break?" and now the question is, "How does the horn come into being?" There is no qualitative difference in both these cases. Onecan most term the appearance of the horn on the chick's beak as a broader observation of reality. One cannot term it as an ultimate explanation of a phenomenon.

The question of what was it that ultimately caused the horn to appear on the beak cannot be answered by materialist science. For theists, the horn did not appear on its own. God arranged for this to enable the chick to emerge from its shell.

Invoking the 'laws of Nature' may explain the secondary cause of occurrences, but the primary or Ultimate cause is other than this, for a secondary cause is itself caused by another cause—a primary cause—so it cannot be the ultimate cause of a phenomenon.

Take another example: Atheists might admit that the process of the digestion of food and, after that, the food becoming part of the body is truly remarkable. However, they would probably contend that people who believe that all this happens because God has so arranged for it are in error, claiming that modern observation indicates that it is simply the result of chemical reactions in the body. However, will the existence of God be negated because of this? After all, what is that power that made the chemical components in the human work in such a way as to enable food to be digested and to become part of the body?

After food enters the body, it passes through different stages, in line with a fantastic automatic arrangement. Witnessing this, it would be absurd to claim that this arrangement came into existence on its own or by chance, as atheists might argue. The fact is that this phenomenon makes it even more necessary for us to accept that it is

God who is the ultimate cause of it and that here, He works through the laws of Nature which He has established in the world.

In other words, Nature and the laws of Nature do not explain the creation and the functioning of the universe. Instead, they require an explanation for themselves—and that explanation is God. Undoubtedly, science has told us a great many new things. However, even if these discoveries were to increase millions and billions of times, the need for religion would remain. It is because these discoveries only tell us how these events occur. They do not tell us why these events are happening and their ultimate cause. These discoveries are only intermediate or secondary explanations, while authentic religion gives us the ultimate and total explanation of things centred on the Creator's existence.

The Universe is 'Speaking'

Scientific discoveries indicate that God's existence is an undeniable reality.

In everything we see in the world, an exceedingly intelligent design is apparent. The universe is not a haphazard pile of rubbish. Instead, it is characterized by great purposefulness and order. Could this have been possible without conscious planning on a Supreme Mind?

Consider an example from the world of insects to appreciate this issue. Termites can live in wood, inside which they carve out their homes. Termites build a home that is several hundred times their height. If we humans were to make a house in the same proportion, we would need to build a structure more than one mile tall!

Studying the life of termites reveals numerous amazing facts. Take just one example: termites eat wood. After stone, wood is possibly the most indigestible thing. However, eating wood is no difficult task for termites. For this purpose, they have special jaws that, besides working as a saw, also do the work of grinding. So what accounts for this phenomenon?

Now, no matter how much one grinds wood, it remains wood and going inside the stomach, one might expect that it would only create indigestion instead of fulfilling the need for food. So then, what is it that assists termites here? For this purpose, some tiny microscopic insects are present in the termites' anton/entrails. These insects, engaging in a particular process on the swallowed-up wood, produce such changes that it is digested and becomes part of the body (**digested by whom—the microscopic insects, or the termites???? Becomes part of whose body—the microscopic insects or the termites?—please clarify. P. 116 para 1, lines 3-5**). Now, who has arranged for this fantastic feature? The only sensible explanation is that this feature reflects planning and loving care.

Let us take another example: A hen's egg. Every such egg contains several unique features, each of which is so important that if even one of them is absent, the egg cannot form:

- The egg's shell or hard outer covering comprises calcium, magnesium carbonate, and calcium phosphate. It contains thousands of pores that allow carbon dioxide and moisture to escape and air to enter. The shell gives shape to the egg and holds the inner contents. It is covered by a cuticle membrane or bloom, which acts as a protective covering, blocking the pores and preventing moisture loss and bacterial contamination.
- The egg white consists of the thin outer albumen, the middle thick albumin, and the inner thin albumen.
- The egg yolk is the unfertilized embryo in the egg, yellow. The yolk is separated from the white by the vitelline membrane, preventing the yolk and white mix. In a fertilized egg, the yoke supplies the nutrients and the albumen or white supplies the water necessary for the embryo's development.
- The chalazae help to maintain the orientation of the embryo within the egg.

If even one of these is separated from the egg, the egg cannot remain a place for nourishing a chick. As atheists might argue, are these various components of things come together merely by chance? 'Chance' most definitely cannot be the explanation for the simultaneous presence of these several things that are found in the egg and precisely the necessary and appropriate proportions.

Think of the human brain. There are around 1000 million nerve cells in it. From every cell, wonderful fibres spread out through the body. These fibres are characterized by receiving messages and sending commands that function at around 70 miles an hour. What made this possible? Man did not design this himself, and it is also absolutely impossible for it to have come into being on its own.

Consider the human heart. It is 4 inches long and 2.5 inches wide, and its weight is perhaps not more than 8 ounces. However, this little pump keeps functioning, day and night, for as long as a person lives. It beats around 100,000 times a day. Every 13 seconds, it sends out approximately one gallon of blood into the entire body. This fantastic phenomenon could only have been possible through some non-human power.

There are innumerable unique phenomena in the universe, and to only make a list of them would require an entire library. Man's knowledge of the realities of the universe is almost nothing at all. There is far more that man has not seen than what he has seen.

As atheists might say, the fantastic craftsmanship, the perfect planning, and the brilliant intelligence visible in the universe—did all of this come about by mere chance? Undoubtedly, a phenomenon can come into being on some occasions through chance.

For example, a whiff of air could cause pollen from a red rose to land on a neighbouring cream-coloured rose, as a result of which a yellow flower might blossom. However, this chance can produce only partial and very minor changes. It can only explain the particular colour of a certain rose, but it cannot be the cause of the entire existence of the rose. 'Mere chance' can never explain how the universe's fantastic system continues to function with exceptional efficiency and accuracy for billions of years. 'Mere chance' does not explain why regularity and order are found.

The process of 'mere chance' cannot operate uniformly. Therefore, it is not possible that whatever happened today by 'mere chance' will also be brought about by 'mere chance' every day that follows. That being the so, the fact that everything in the physical universe is characterised by fantastic precision, predictability, regularity and uniformity—such as, for instance, the speed at which the Earth rotates around its axis or revolves which it revolves around the sun—cannot be the result of 'mere chance'. So then, what accounts for these remarkable features of the physical universe? The only reasonable explanation is to attribute them to the Almighty Designer, Creator, Master and Sustainer of the universe.

If you take some bits of plastic shaped in the form of the alphabet letters and throw them up in the air, is it possible that they will fall on the ground in the form of complete sentences and paragraphs by mere chance? Of course, not! If such a small thing cannot happen by mere chance, why is it posited that such a vast universe, with its unique features, came into being by mere chance? What evidence is there to accept a theory that cannot be proven in any laboratory?

Another purported explanation of phenomena that atheists depend on is Nature's laws. Why do chicks emerge from a hen's egg in 21 days and from an ostrich's egg in 45 days? There are numerous questions like these whose answer, according to atheists, is that these are simply a result of the laws of Nature. Ostensibly, this is an explanation, but this answer only states an event. Using the phrase 'The Laws of Nature', we only acknowledge the universe's order, precision, and regularity. However, this phrase does not explain why and how this order, precision and regularity came about and why and how they prevail. It only tells us that certain things always come into being under certain determined and specific principles and will always come in this same way. However, from this, one does not learn why whatever is happening is happening. This phrase does not tell us the ultimate cause of events but only presents a picture of those events.

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If you ask a doctor why blood is red, he might reply that the reason is that there are tiny red-coloured components in the blood, or what are called red blood corpuscles.

"True, Doctor, but why are these particles red?"

“This is because these particles contain a special substance called ‘haemoglobin’, which turns red when the lungs absorb oxygen.”

“That is fine, doctor, but where did the red blood corpuscles come from?”

“They are produced in your spleen.”

“Doctor, whatever you have said is strange, but please tell me why is it that the red blood corpuscles, the spleen and thousands of other things are so finely interconnected inside the single unit of the human body? How are they able to function so accurately, in such a way that I can breathe, I can walk, I can run, I can speak, I am alive?”

“That is because of the laws of Nature.”

“But what is that which you call ‘the laws of Nature’?”

“Hmmm, well, I suppose I mean the blind interplay of physical and chemical forces by this.”

“But what is why these supposedly blind forces always function in one particular direction, which takes them towards a determined end? How do they organise their activities so that a bird can fly, a fish can swim, and a human being can come into existence with all his special abilities? Can all of this result from some ‘blind’ interplay of physical forces?”

“My friend, please do not ask me all this! A scientist can only narrate *how* what is happening is happening. He does not have the answer to the question of *why* whatever is happening is happening.”

This hypothetical conversation makes clear the reality of the scope of present-day science. Undoubtedly, this science has told us a great many new things. However, whatever it has told us is some features of events and phenomena in the universe. It does not answer why those events happen and why those phenomena are as they are. For instance, no doubt science has told us a lot about how the delicate parts work, but what is that Mind that knew that a fly would require these delicate parts and bestowed it with them? Only religion can provide an answer to this question. Suggesting, as atheists might, that this is an outcome of the working of this or that law of Nature is hardly convincing, for the laws of Nature are a phenomenon of the universe, not an explanation of the universe. They are phenomena that themselves require to be explained. Nature does not explain—it requires explanation.

For even the smallest part of the human body to come into being, hundreds of thousands of items must come together in a particular and unique arrangement and design. Blind forces can certainly not manifest this sort of purposefulness. They cannot produce meaningfulness and harmony in events and phenomena regularly and uniformly. It means that for there to be meaningfulness in something is clear evidence that some mind is at work behind it. The same is true for the universe as a whole.

A sperm produced in a man's body is similar to other cells in the body in some ways, but it has very different properties from other cells. For example, it can fuse with a cell from a woman's body to become a completely new person. What has made it possible that two cells, each produced in two different bodies, harmoniously unite to function in such a manner as to bring about such a miraculous result? Can this be explained without accepting a creative mind's functioning behind it?

To believe in the existence of a creative Mind, whom we call 'God', behind the universe is not to believe in some mere baseless dogma. On the contrary, innumerable facts compel us to accept the functioning of a Supreme Mind behind the universe whom we cannot physically see, in the same way as the sounds coming out of a radio compel us to accept the existence of radio waves even though we cannot see them.

If you put some sugar in a glass of water, in a short while, it will dissolve. The sugar particles will not be visible. However, on tasting the mixture, you can discern the presence of sugar in the water. In the same way, our eyes cannot see God, but when we study the world around us, our intuition calls out that undoubtedly there is a God present here, for, without Him, the universe could not have come into being, and it could not possess any of its many amazing features.

The fact is that the growth of scientific knowledge of the universe has not distanced man from God, as atheists might aver and hope. Rather, it has potentially brought man closer to God. It being the case, to doubt the existence of God is only a declaration of one's ignorance. How true Newton was when he remarked that "a little knowledge leads away from God, but much knowledge leads towards Him"!

Predictable Universe

In 1964, I wrote a book in Urdu titled *Mazhab aur Jadeed Challenge* (translated into English as *God Arises*). In this book, it is shown that the universe is very meaningful. Such a meaningful universe cannot have been made without a Maker. One of the points the book makes is that there would be a solar eclipse on the 11th of August 1999 that would be completely visible in Cornwall. I had written this around thirty-five years before this event. Thirty-five years after I wrote this, the date arrived. Per this advance announcement, a solar eclipse did indeed occur at the exact appointed time. There was not a minute's difference in the occurrence of this event.

I had not come up with this point myself, but, rather, it was based on the calculations of expert astronomers. These experts successfully made such an accurate claim well in advance because the universe runs according to extremely well-established laws. Even after millions of years, there has not been the slightest change. Based on this discovery, the scientist Sir James Jeans suggested in his book *The Mysterious Universe* that the study of the universe seems to indicate that its creator is a Mathematical Mind.

A major aspect of something being meaningful is that it is also predictable. This quality is present completely throughout the present universe, one proof of which is evident in the above-cited example of the solar eclipse.

Some people who deny the existence of God claim that the present universe came into being through chance or accident, not by the decision of any Creator. However, this is not correct. If it is accepted that the present meaningful universe emerged as a result of an accident, the necessary consequence would be that we should also have to accept that the numerous accidents that occur in this world are also phenomena that can bring into existence meaningful things. The 'accident' that supposedly brought the universe must be repeatable in such a situation. The universe should come into existence repeatedly because accidents happen repeatedly. If an unconscious accident has supposedly created a meaningful universe once, in the same way, it should happen a second time that through an accident, a meaningful universe should come into being. However, as is known, never again has a universe other than the one that exists come into being after the existing universe did.

According to scientific estimates, the age of the universe is around 15 billion years. So why is there that in this long period, a meaningful universe has come into being just once and never again after that, not even partially? For example, as far as we know, it has never happened that a new solar system has been created once again or that a planet like Earth has come into being, a planet with water, air and greenery and where humans and animals move about. It is clear evidence of creation resulting from a conscious decision by a Creator and not as an accident.

The present world is an exceptional phenomenon. The universe is an exception that rebuts the view of the deniers of God. If the universe were only the result of an accident, it would be repeatable through another such 'accident'. However, seeking to explain it due to a supposed accident is completely baseless when it is not repeatable. Therefore, this sort of explanation is not intellectually acceptable.

The fact is that for a person, the existence of God is as certain as his existence. Every person accepts his existence. Through the very same evidence and proof, he will also have to accept the existence of God. To accept one's existence and not to accept God's existence is an intellectual contradiction. No serious person can accept this.

The famous 17th-century French philosopher Rene Descartes (1596-1650) said, "I think I exist." This principle is undoubtedly a firm one. According to this principle, a person who is aware of himself reaches the stage of realizing God. Therefore, according to this principle, it would be right to say, "I exist; therefore, God exists."

The universe is not repeatable, proving that a conscious Being made this universe according to His will and decision. Therefore, God is a proven Being. Therefore, to

believe in and know that God is a reality is to accept something proven, while to deny God is to deny something proven.

Science and Theology

Professor Paul Davies, a well known American writer, who is also director of a research centre under Arizona State University, has written many thought-provoking books, one of which is titled 'The Goldilocks Enigma'. One of his research articles was published in The Guardian and was reproduced in The Hindu in its June 27, 2007 edition titled: 'The Flaw in the Creationists' Argument'.

This article is reproduced below:

We will never explain the cosmos by taking either divinity or physical laws on faith. The true meaning is to be found within nature. Nevertheless, scientists are slowly waking up to an inconvenient truth – the universe looks suspiciously like a fix. The issue concerns the very laws of nature themselves. For 40 years, physicists and cosmologists have been quietly collecting examples of all too convenient “coincidences” and special features in the underlying laws of the universe that seem to be necessary for life, and hence conscious beings, to exist. Change any one of them, and the result would be lethal. To see the problem, imagine playing God with the cosmos before you is a designer machine that lets you tinker with the basics of physics. Twiddle this knob, and you make all electrons a bit lighter, twiddle that one, and you make gravity a bit stronger, and so on. It happens that you need to set 30-something knobs to describe the world about us fully. The point is that some of those metaphorical knobs must be tuned precisely, or the universe would be sterile.

Example: neutrons are just a tad heavier than protons. If it were the other way around, atoms could not exist because all the protons in the universe would have decayed into neutrons shortly after the big bang. No protons, then no atomic nuclei, and no atoms. No atoms, no chemistry, no life. Like Baby Bear's porridge in the story of Goldilocks, the universe seems to be just right for life. So what is going on? Fuelling the controversy is an unanswered question lurking at the very heart of science – the origin of the laws of physics. Where do they come from? Why do they have the form that they do? Traditionally, scientists have treated the laws of physics as simply “given”, elegant mathematical relationships that were somehow imprinted on the universe at its birth, and fixed after that. Inquiry into the origin and nature of the laws was not regarded as a good part of science.

Clarification

In ilahiyaat (theology), the modern mind is a victim of severe confusion. We have an idea of this from this article by Professor Paul Davies. Atheist philosophers have been asking, if God made the universe according to religious belief, then who created God? However, this question is illogical. It is a negation of logic.

Furthermore, this objection is based on a clear contradiction in thinking. These are those who believe in the universe without a creator, but so far as their belief in a creator is concerned, they need a creator of the Creator. However, if the existence of the universe is possible without a Creator, then the existence of the Creator too should be possible without a creator.

A Rational Stand

In the matter of the existence of God, the actual point at issue is what stand we can adopt and what stand we cannot adopt from a purely logical viewpoint. There is no other way of looking at this.

It is a fact that the universe has a high degree of organisation. The matter of organization (nazm) is within man's observation. Professor Davies has given a scientific example of the composition of the atom. Therefore, so far as the question of order in the universe is concerned, it is a fact accepted by the entire scientific community.

Regarding taking a rational stand, the second most important thing is that the concept of order can never be explained without the idea of an organizer. That is, design is not possible without a designer. Without a designer, the concept of order is rationally untenable. The presence of design has its compulsive logic, that is, unconditionally accepting the existence of a designer. The absence of an explanation of the presence of the designer is not a logical justification for denying the existence of the designer.

What the author says of the structure of the atom is true of everything in this world. Each part of this world, be it big or small, is so regulated by eternal laws and is so in the proportion that even the slightest change in its structure will suffice to disturb the whole world's system.

For instance, gravity on Earth is per our needs to the ultimate extent. If the gravity on earth were to become weaker or stronger, the survival of human civilisation would be rendered impossible in both situations. As we know, we have two immediate neighbours in space – the sun and the moon. If the sun were to take the place of the moon and the moon to take the place of the sun, then human life and the earth itself would be burnt to ashes.

Everything on our earth moves from above to below. However, the tree is exceptional in that its roots go down into the ground, and the trunk grows upward. If the tree did not have these exceptional features, there would be no green trees on Earth.

The Intelligent Universe

There are innumerable things in the universe, and they are in some divisible form. Earlier it was believed that the atom was the basic unit of the universe, a single and individual entity. However, then Einstein ~~smashed the atom and broke~~ **split the atom**,

and it was found that the atom, too, was divisible and formed of what is now known as subatomic particles.

In the modern age, everything has been the object of scientific research, from which we have learnt that in the arrangement of matter, there are always several options. However, the study of science tells us that nature always selects only that formulation, which is precisely in coherence with the overall scheme of the universe. This is why everything in this world appears to have taken its final shape.

This principle which is operative in the universe, can be summed up in a single phase, intelligent selection. There are billions and trillions of things in this world, but everything, without exception, serves as an example of this intelligent selection. This principle is so universal that a Nobel prize-winning physicist, Dr Fred Hoyle, wrote a 200-page book supporting this thesis. It is titled 'The Intelligent Universe.

This phenomenal aspect of the universe is no simple matter: it is the ultimate proof of God's existence. In the making of the universe, the presence of intelligence is proof of an intelligent Creator. Logically, it is unthinkable that intelligent action should exist without an intelligent actor. Both are, without a doubt, inextricably related to one another.

Believing in intelligent action and then denying an intelligent actor is similar to believing in a complex machine but denying the existence of the engineer who made it. Dr Fred Hoyle has rightly pointed out in his book that the Christian church's violent opposition to the scientists during the early development of science still affects people's minds. They are afraid that if they acknowledge scientific proof of the existence of the intelligent Creator, ancient religious persecution might return. However, this is a baseless fear. After the scientific acknowledgement of the intelligent Creator, what will remain the force in history will be a true divine religion rather than the tenets of the Christian church.

Two Option

We have two ways of explaining the special order or design and proportion found in the universe. One is that this universe is its designer. However, all the research science refutes this. Therefore, the design or order discovered by science in the universe is totally intelligent. On the other hand, science also tells us that the universe has everything save that intelligence. Therefore, the universe discovered by science is simultaneously designed in the total sense, and along with this, it is non-intelligent. In such a situation, regarding the world to be its designer is like supposing a stone statue with a meaningful design to have been its designer. That is to say that the statue is a self-created being.

We have only one option for explaining the universe: to hold some outside agency as the cause of the universe's design. There is no other acceptable option.

The truth is that, in this matter, we do not have a choice between a God-less universe and a universe with God. Instead, we have the option of the universe with God or no universe at all. That is to say that if we deny God, then we shall have to deny the universe's existence. However, since we cannot deny the existence of the universe, we are compelled to accept the existence of God.

The Only Choice

One of the principles of rationality is that where there is essentiality, only one option, we have to recognize the compulsiveness of the situation. That is, we are compelled to make just that one choice. However, it is possible to do this only when more than one possible course of action. However, we inevitably accept that single choice when there is no other option. In this context, the only thing to do is accept the existence of God as a reality. Because, except for acknowledgement of the existence of God, there is no other possible choice.

Logical Argument

The most important tool that man possesses to understand anything rationally is logic. Through logic, any valid argument may be made understandable. There are two important kinds of reasoning. One is by optional logic, and the other is by compulsive logic. Both of these logical methods are equally reliable. Using either of the two logical methods can prove any valid theory. Optional logic is one in which man has many choices. In such a case, we have different means by employing which we can make one choice and leave aside the others.

Let us take the case of the sunlight. The sun's light appears to be a single colour when viewed with the naked eye. However, when we see it through a prism, the light is divided into seven distinct colours. Therefore, we have two ways of deciding the colour of the sun's rays. Now, it is more possible to accept the choice which carries more logical weight. Therefore, in this matter, the theory that sunlight is made up of seven colours is acceptable because it has been proved by using scientific methods.

The matter of compulsive logic is entirely different. As far as compulsive logic is concerned, man has only one option. Man is compelled to accept the single choice placed before him, for no other choice is available. In compulsive logic, the state of affairs is such that man must necessarily accept whatever the proposition is, as no other options are available to him.

One obvious instance of compulsive logic is the identification of one's mother. Everyone is compelled to accept one woman as one's mother. Although the individual does not remember the experience of being born, he nevertheless accepts his mother with absolute conviction. This acceptance happens by following the method of compulsive logic. One does so because, in this matter, one's position is such that one must accept someone to be his mother. Therefore, when he is old enough to be aware

of her, he accepts his mother as such with conviction because, in this case, there is no other choice available.

The matter of accepting the existence of God also pertains to this kind of compulsive logic. The point worth noting in this matter of the existence of God is that we have no other option. We are compelled to believe in the existence of God because if we do not believe in the existence of God, this further leads to the denial of the existence of the universe and our existence to boot. Since we cannot negate the existence of the universe, neither can we deny the existence of God.

Man's Existence is a Proof of God's Existence

In the vast universe, man alone denies the existence of God. Even though man's existence is the greatest proof of Divine existence. If a being like a man exists, then God certainly exists. All those qualities present in perfect form in God are present in an imperfect form in man. If an imperfect being exists, then a perfect being also certainly exists. Believing in one and not believing in another is a logical contradiction as no person with a thinking mind can countenance.

Rene Descartes, a renowned French philosopher (1596-1650), was faced with this question: if man exists, what is the rational proof of his existence? After a long reflection, he answered this question in these words: "I think, therefore I exist."

The answer to Descartes is a logically sound one. However, this logic which proves the existence of man gives us something much greater, and that is the rational evidence of the existence of God. In the light of this rational principle, it would be right to say, 'thinking exists; therefore, God exists. Thinking is an abstract thing. People deny God because they think that the concept of God appears to be something abstract.

Moreover, an abstract concept is not understandable to believe in something with no material existence. However, every man is a thinking creature. Therefore, based on one's own experience, everyone believes in the existence of thinking despite thinking being an abstract concept that is something which has no material existence.

Now, if a man believes in the abstract concept of man's existence, it is incumbent upon him to accept the abstract concept of another existence as well. It is, without doubt, proof of God's existence. Every person undergoes this experience and believes in it without any disagreement. If thinking is denied, one's existence will have to be denied. No one can deny the existence of one's existence; it is not, therefore, logically possible for anyone to deny the existence of God.

God's being invisible is not a sufficient reason to deny His existence. The truth is that denying God's existence because of its being invisible is an anachronistic argument in this age of modern science. In the days of Einstein (who died in 1955), when the atom was smashed, and the river of knowledge reached the micro-world, it was learned that

everything was invisible here. Things which had earlier been regarded as visible all became invisible. In such a situation, denying the existence of God based on invisibility has become an unscientific stand. For details on this subject, the study of these two books is recommended.

1. The Unseen World, by Sir Arthur Eddington
2. Human Knowledge, by A. W. Bertrand Russel

Space Observation

In present times, space travel is one of the new things that have come into existence. Many people have travelled into space in rockets, and with special telescopes, they have studied the earth. Their space observations have revealed many new things. An Astronaut once observed that he realized that there was no planet like the earth in the vast universe during his space journey. There is life on earth, and along with it, there exists a life support system of a high order. These two things are found on the earth most proportionately. One astronaut expressed his observation regarding the earth in these words: "Right type of material at the right place".

It is a unique quality of the earth that life is found here. Here there are walking, talking human Beings. However, the existence of life of such a kind is no simple matter. For it, innumerable factors are required, without which the existence or survival of life would not be possible. The earth, in this respect, is a unique exception in the vast universe. Here exceptionally, man exists, and the entire life support system exists in the very proportionate matter required for man's survival. This meaningful exception proves purposeful action and planned creation in the vast universe. Therefore, a Being who possesses Will and can create needs no proof.

The Earth an Exception

If anyone could travel and observe the whole universe, he would find that this vast universe was entirely lifeless. There is boundless space, terrible darkness, hurdling stones, and huge fire balls, all in perpetual and frenzied motion. However, when an astronaut passes through these awesome scenes and finally reaches the planet earth, he finds an astonishing exception. Exceptionally there is water, there is greenery, there are animals, there is life, and there are human beings with intelligence. Then he sees, astonishingly, the existence of the life support system. Here, an entire civilization exists, not found anywhere in the vast universe. There is an extremely meaningful world in an entirely meaningless cosmos.

This event shows that the planet earth is a unique exception in this vast universe. This exception is no simple matter. It is proof at the level of observation of great reality, proof of a very powerful God. The exception proves intervention, and intervention

proves the existence of an intervenor, and when the existence of an intervenor is proved, the existence of God is also proved.

God and Science

There is considerable confusion among people regarding Albert Einstein. Some say that he was an atheist. Some others hold the opposite view. However, studying various statements by Einstein himself, it is clear that he was not a denier of God. Rather, he had doubts in the matter of the existence of God.

In 1997, *Skeptic*, a science magazine, published a series of letters that Einstein exchanged in 1945 with an officer in the US Navy named Guy Raner Jr. on the existence of God. Raner wanted to know if it was true that Einstein had converted from atheism to theism after being confronted by a Jesuit priest with the following argument: A design requires a designer, and since the universe has a design, it must have a designer.

Einstein wrote back that he had never spoken to a Jesuit priest in his life but that he was and would always be an atheist from the viewpoint of such a person. He added that it was misleading and childish to use anthropomorphic concepts in dealing with things outside the human sphere and that all we could do was admire, in humility, the beautiful harmony of the structure of this world as far as we can grasp it.

Raner replied, asking for clarification of Einstein's position, wanting to know if he was an atheist from the viewpoint of the dictionary—someone who disbelieves in the existence of a God or a Supreme Being.

To this, Einstein replied:

I have repeatedly said that, in my opinion, the idea of a personal God is a childlike one. You may call me an agnostic, but I do not share the crusading spirit of the professional atheist, whose fervour is mostly due to a painful act of liberation from the fetters of religious indoctrination received in youth. Instead, I prefer an attitude of humility corresponding to the weakness of our intellectual understanding of nature and our being.

Einstein's position on the concept of God is the same as that of many other scientists. God is not a subject of scientific study. Then, what is the reason that many scientists do not deny God and at most call themselves 'agnostic'—that is, holding to a position in which they are neither in a position to deny God nor in a position to affirm Him?

The subject matter of science is the material world. However, what is the material world? It is a creation of the Creator. That is why the study of science is nothing but the study of the Creator's creation. A scientist can deny belief in God, but denying the signs of God, the Creator present in the entire creation is just not possible.

In the physical world that science has discovered, many non-physical or non-material realities are present—for example, meaningfulness, design, intelligence and purposeful planning. This discovery is indirect evidence of the existence of the Creator.

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Although Einstein was born in a Jewish family, after studying science, he fell into doubt about the existence of God. A year or so before his death, in January 1954, he wrote a letter in German to a Jewish philosopher Eric B. Gutkind, where he stated that the word ‘God’ was nothing more than the expression and product of human weakness.

Einstein thought that human weakness was not weakness but a great aspect of man. This attribute can be stated: “Man is an explanation-seeking creature”. This special feature of man is the basis for all of man’s intellectual advances. On account of this special feature, man seeks the explanation of things and then advances in his quest. If man had not possessed this special feature, human civilisation might not have advanced beyond the basic stage.

About Einstein himself, it is said that during the last 30 years or so of his life, he kept trying to find a scientific answer to a certain question but could not succeed. In Einstein’s words, this question was the discovery of a unified field theory. From the scientific point of view, this question is so important that it has become the focus of attention of many theoretical scientists today. This question is generally known as a ‘Theory of Everything’.

Now, what is this ‘Theory of Everything’? It is actually about discovering a mathematical formula that can scientifically explain all the phenomena in the universe. A ‘Theory of Everything’ means a theory that can explain everything.

Under the European Organization for Nuclear Research, a project was launched in 1998 in Switzerland called the Large Hadron Collider. A huge amount of money was spent on the project—tens of millions of dollars. The project received the assistance of some 10,000 scientists from some 100 countries of the world. Although the project was not successful, its purpose was just this—to discover a theory of everything.

Almost a century has been spent trying to discover a ‘Theory of Everything’, or, more properly, an ‘Explanation of Everything’, but in this matter, scientists could not obtain any success. The reason for this is that the correct explanation of the phenomena of the universe can be obtained only if one accepts the existence of God, the Creator and Sustainer of the universe. No mathematical formula can ever become the answer to this question. Searching for the answer to this question in mathematical formulae is like trying to quench one’s thirst by eating rubber instead of drinking water.

Science and Belief in God

Science has discovered electrons, neutrons and protons, but it is also a fact that till now, no scientist has seen electrons, neutrons and protons, neither with their own eyes nor through a microscope. So then, why do scientists believe in their existence?

The scientists would reply that although they cannot see these particles, they can see their effects and infer that they exist.

The further study tells us that this issue is not only an issue of cause and effect. The more important point is that from the study of science itself, it has been learned that there is a high level of intelligence in the universe and perfect harmony and planning. Top scientists have accepted these facts. Now, how does one account for these features of the universe? They point to the existence and role of the One Creator God.

The God that religion had presented was in the form of an article of faith or belief. However, even though it is not directly a subject matter of science, modern scientific discoveries indirectly affirm this article of faith by testifying to a Creator and Designer of the universe. Of course, science has not proven the concept of God, but it would be right to say that science has provided sufficient data as supporting evidence for the existence of God.

In the standard model of science, there is one thing that had the status of a missing link: This model reveals an action taking place in the universe, but not the Actor that is ultimately behind it. In contrast, both the Actor—God—and the action are present in the model of the universe that the Quran provides. The Quran highlights the Ultimate or Final Cause of the universe, the Mind behind the universe—the Creator God. When science is now verifying and attesting to the intelligence evident in the universe, then, logically, there is no argument for it not to testify to the Mind that possesses this intelligence.

“Who Created God?”

When an infant is in the protective shell of his mother’s womb, he does not know the world outside. An entire world is present outside the womb, but the infant has no idea. The same is true for the man himself. All of man’s information is limited within space and time. Therefore, man does not know the realities beyond space and time.

When British philosopher John Stuart Mill (d. 1873) was in his youth, his father said that belief in God is irrational because if it is said that God created man, then the question arises as to who created God. Mill mentions this in his autobiography. After this, philosophers like Bertrand Russell, Julian Huxley, and others began to repeat this point. This process continued further, and one often hears this argument today too.

In Mill’s day and age, man’s knowledge was confined inside a limited scientific ‘shell’ or ‘womb’, just like an infant inside the shell of his mother’s womb does not know the

world outside. However, now, there have been great advances in man's scientific knowledge of the universe that testify to the Creator's existence.

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It is claimed that explaining the universe based on God is no answer really, because then, at once, the question arises: "If God made the universe, then who made God?" However, this is an illogical question.

The situation is that before us, an entire universe is present. We can see it. We are experiencing it. Thus, we are compelled to accept the existence of the universe. Therefore, even if a person does not accept the existence of God, he does accept the existence of the universe.

One scenario is that a person regards the universe, whose existence he accepts, as causeless. However, such a belief is impossible because, in the universe, all events seem to be coming into being in line with cause and effect, and behind every event, a cause is at work. However, the nature of the universe itself desires that there be a final cause for its existence—the Cause of all causes, which is another name for God.

It is not possible to accept a causeless universe. In fact, with the 'Big Bang' theory, modern science has proved that the universe is not eternal and had a definite beginning, which points to a cause of the universe. The universe necessarily requires a final cause for itself. When we accept the causeless God as the cause of the universe, we save ourselves from accepting the impossible belief in a causeless universe, which modern science has shown to be fallacious.

It is strange to believe in God/Khuda ko manna ajeeb hai, but not believing in God is even more strange/stranger still. In accepting God, we choose something less strange over something more strange/ Khuda ko maan Kar hum sirf zyada ajeeb ke muqabile mai kam ajeeb ko ikhtiyar karte hain.

It is not an issue only of God's existence. From a purely scientific point of view, nothing can either be conclusively proven or disproven in this world. In accepting anything, the option is not between proven and unproven. Rather, every option is between workable and non-workable. In science, whenever a theory is accepted, it is not that compared to something unproven; something that is proven is accepted. Rather, it is about accepting a workable theory over a non-workable theory. The same principle applies to the concept of God. No theory that does not accept the existence of God, the Creator and Master of the universe, can provide a satisfactorily workable explanation of the universe.

The universe does not possess the ability to create on its own. It cannot produce even a particle inside it. Here for us, the choice is not between a universe with God and a universe without God. Rather, it is between a universe with God and a non-existent

universe. Because we cannot choose a non-existent universe, we are compelled to accept the theory of a universe with God.

Mathematical Mind

The scientific study reveals that the universe has been organised precisely and that no satisfactory explanation is possible without accepting a Creator. The noted British astrophysicist Sir James Jeans rightly remarked, “The universe appears to have been designed by a pure mathematician”.

The point that Sir James Jeans made—way back in 1932—has been acknowledged by numerous other scientists in different words. For the universe to have been created on mathematical principles and for it to be in a state of constant motion with mathematical accuracy is clear evidence that behind the universe, a Mind is at work that has an awareness of mathematical laws.

Vision of God

In the books of Hadith, there is a narration which is famous by the name of hadith-e Jibreel. One part of this hadith is: “Tum Allah ki ibadat is tarah karo jaise kit um Use dekh rahe ho, aur agar tum Usko nahin dekhtey ho, to Voh tumko dekh raha hai” (Sahih al-Bukhari, hadith no. 50). [P. 155 PARA 1]

In this *hadith*, the reality of worship has been explained. On reflecting on this *hadith*, one learns that although the direct vision of God is not possible for man, it is possible for a man to find God at the level of **shiba ruviat/shibah ruviyat ke darje mai Allah ko pa sakey. Although zahiri etbaar se there is a difference between ruviyat and shibh ruviyat, in terms of reality, there is no difference between the two. [P. 155, PARA 2]**

How can a person obtain **shubh ruviyat** of God? The method for this is reflection and contemplation of God’s creation. Although God is not **zahir/visible** in front of us in terms of His **Being/zat**, His attributes He is **poori tarah numaya hai/fully reflected** in His creations. The creation is, as it were, the mirror of God-realization. **Jisne tekhlīq ko dekha, usne goya Khaliq ko dekh liya, theek usi tarah jaise kisi ne art ko dekha to usne goya artist ko dekh liya./ If one sees the creation, it is as if he has seen the Creator, in just the same way as if someone sees a work of art, it is as if He has seen the artist who made it. [P. 155, PARA 3]**

In recent decades, scientists have discovered that the universe is characterised by a high level of precision and design. This discovery reveals that a Supreme Mind is at work behind the universe. In the language of religion, this Mind is called ‘God’. In the language of science, one could say that following this discovery, the existence of God becomes proven at the level of probability.

Who Should Control?

British writer Julian Huxley wrote a book titled *Religion Without Revelation*, where he tried to prove that the age of religion based on Divine revelation had come to an end. He opined that man is devising his religion himself. The basis of this new 'religion' is the reason, and the name of this 'religion' is 'Humanism'. Huxley's argument can be expressed in these words:

Man has learnt in large measure to understand, control and utilize the forces of external nature: he must now learn to understand, control and utilize the forces of his nature.

This understanding is shared by many atheists today. However, this is nothing but playing on words. These are beautiful-sounding words, but actually, they are completely devoid of meaning. It is as *impossible* for man to control the forces of his nature by himself as it is *possible* for him to control the forces of external nature.

Matter cannot control itself. In the same way, man cannot control himself. It became possible for a man to control matter because he had **baladasti/superiority** over the matter in his brain. In the same way, only that Being can control man with **baladasti/hegemony/superiority** over a man. No being can control another equal being. Therefore, there is a need to believe in God's superior Being to control man. Nothing other than belief in a Supreme God can keep man under control.

Wisdom in the Creation

On 12 June 2009, I had a dream. I saw that a person was asking me something. He said, "If there is a God, and God has created the world, why is there so much suffering in our lives?"

I remember this question in the dream, but I do not recall its answer. Still, I will say that the different calamities we face in the life of this world are not misfortunes. On the contrary, in terms of their reality, they are challenges. They awaken the human mind. They activate man's practical powers. Therefore, for us, these events are a positive experience, not something negative.

According to God's Creation Plan, many things have been created in potential form. Along with this, man has been given an extraordinary brain. Man's task is to use his mental abilities and convert what is potential into actuality.

If life were structured in such a way that man faced no problems, there would be no **halchal/upheavals** in his life. No storm would ruffle his existence. Such a man would be a stagnant person. However, this is not the plan of **fitrat/Nature/God**. Man must face realities, use the ups and downs of life for the positive construction of his personality, activate the hidden possibilities in his being, and make unfavourable events favourable

to him. A person who does this may have been born an ordinary person, but he will have become extraordinary when he dies.

History's Intellectual Fallacies

Among the speculative sciences, philosophy is one of the most ancient. Many 'big' minds have been engaged in philosophical reflection. However, philosophers could not give man any positive things despite a long history. Instead, they only increased man's intellectual **pecheedgiyan/conundrums**. A Persian poet has very rightly said:

P. 158, PARA 2. PLEASE TRANSLATE

What philosophy gave to man can, in one term, be termed as 'intellectual fallacies'—that is, speculations that are not based on facts. The history of philosophical thought is filled with such examples.

The common blunder of all philosophers is that there was an ideal model present in each of their minds that could never be actualised. These models of the philosophers were not compatible with the Creation Plan of God regarding this world. The Creator has created the present world for the test, not for reward. For this test, man has been given freedom. This freedom for tests prevents an ideal system from ever being established. An ideal system can only be established if and when all people, without exception, use their freedom in absolutely the right way. However, due to various reasons, for this to happen on Earth is just not possible. That is why an ideal system can never be established in this world. However, all philosophers in history were unaware of this reality. Because of this, they kept dreaming of an ideal system in line with the particular model that they nurtured in their minds. However, under the laws of Nature, this dream of theirs could never come true.

Theory of Darwinism

Among the intellectual fallacies that the history of philosophy is littered with is 'Darwinism'. The theory of Darwinism and its worldview has received immense popularity. A vast number of books have been written on this theory, and it has been probably included in the curricula of almost all of the universities of the world. However, it comes out as nothing but a giant fallacy if you analyse it scientifically.

Darwinism is also known as the theory of natural selection based on random mutations or organic evolution. In brief, it claims that life somehow started on Earth a long time ago, in the form of a simple organism. Then, through reproduction, it kept growing. Due to the influence of various conditions, transformations kept happening in this primitive life form. These transformations went on a continuous evolutionary journey, in the course of which the initial species turned into many different species. A material law was supposedly directing this long process. In Darwin's words, this supposed law was 'natural selection'.

One basic flaw of this theory is that it cites two species that show some physical similarities and then claims that through a long process of biological evolution, one species changed into another—for example, that a goat very gradually turned into a giraffe.

This theory does show us a goat and a giraffe, but it does not prove any supposed intermediate steps that can prove the supposed journey of the transformation of a goat into a giraffe. Advocates of the theory of evolution refer to those so-called intermediate steps between species as ‘missing links’. However, these so-called ‘missing links’ are only speculative links. They have no existence at all.

One reason for the popularity of Darwin’s theory might be that it might have appeared to secular scholars as a workable theory. However, no theory can be proved in this way through mere speculation. To make a theory a proven one, there must be known realities that verify it, but no such realities are available to support Darwinism. For example, according to Darwinism, for biological evolution to occur, a very long period is required. However, according to scientific discoveries, compared to this supposed necessary period, the age of the Earth is very young. Given this, if the drama of the evolution of life did indeed happen in line with the Darwinian hypothesis for the sake of argument, it could certainly not have happened on Planet Earth.

After scientific discoveries highlighted the relatively limited age of Earth, which seriously questioned the Darwinian hypothesis, advocates of evolution began saying that life might have started somewhere else, on some other planet, and that it then might have travelled from there and arrived on Earth. They gave this fanciful theory the name of ‘Panspermia’. Some people even tried to locate such planets through telescopes and space travel. However, no such hypothetical planets have been discovered despite these efforts until now.

Theory of Humanism

A similar intellectual fallacy is called ‘Humanism’, a human-based explanation of the universe. Humanism seeks to explain life only based on man, with no room in it for God. The gist of this philosophy can be expressed as “The transfer of seat from God to man”.

In recent decades, many books have been written in support of Humanism. One of them is a book by British philosopher Julian Huxley, published in 1941, titled *Man Stands Alone*. This book is based entirely on mere claims and speculations. It argues that man now does not need Divine revelation and that the reason is completely enough for man's guidance. However, it provides no real evidence for this thesis. Abraham Cressy Morrison (d. 1951), who served as President of the New York Academy of Sciences, published a reply to this book, titled *Man Does Not Stand Alone*, which proved Huxley's claim to be completely baseless.

THE UNIVERSE TESTIFIES TO GOD'S EXISTENCE

Creation Testifies to the Creator

If a person can exist, why can't God exist? If air and water, trees and stones, the moon and the stars exist, why is the existence of the One who gave them existence doubted? The fact is that the presence of the creation is proof of the Creator. So likewise, man's existence is evidence of a present God, who hears and sees, who thinks and causes things to happen.

There is no doubt that our physical eyes cannot see God. However, there is also no doubt that nothing in this world can be seen with the physical eyes in terms of its final, subatomic components. So then, for what thing is the condition of 'seeing' necessary for believing in its existence?

The stars shine in the sky. The ordinary person thinks he sees the stars, but this is not true from a strictly scientific point of view. When we see the stars, we are not seeing them directly. Rather, we are seeing their effects, which, separating from the stars, reaches our eyes after a long time, in some cases maybe after a great many years.

The same is true for all other things. Everything in this world that man 'sees' he sees only indirectly. **Man does not see anything directly, nor can he ever do so with his present limitations. So, when the existence of all other things is accepted based on indirect evidence, why should not the existence of God be accepted based on indirect evidence also? (PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS A LITTLE BIT. P. 167, PARA 4)**

The fact is that God is as clearly proven as anything in the universe. **Everything in this universe is proved through indirect evidence. (PLEASE EXPLAIN)** In this world, everything is recognised by its effects. The same is true for God's existence.

God certainly is not visible to our eyes. **Khuda Apni nishaniyon ke zariye yaqeenan dikhai deta hai/, But He is certainly seen through His signs.** Moreover, undoubtedly, intellectual evidence for God is enough.

Evidence for God in the Universe

For the existence of life on Earth, various complex conditions are necessary. These conditions are such that they simply cannot come about by mere chance. It is impossible that they can be together by fluke. Therefore, it is the case that one must necessarily accept that there is some conscious guidance present in the universe that is the cause behind these conditions and that has arranged for them to come about in just the manner needed for life to be able to exist on Earth.

The Earth is continuously moving about in the vast space. That itself is a fascinating phenomenon! However, along with this, the conditions on Earth are those of an extremely exceptional planet. These things are so astounding that one is amazed if one

thinks about them. There are many signs on Earth and in the rest of the universe that, if a person sincerely reflects on, can become a mirror for the realisation of God and God's beauty and majesty.

In terms of size, the Earth does not even have the status of a tiny particle compared to the rest of the universe. However, despite this, in the entire known universe, as far as scientists have been able to discover, it is only on tiny little Earth that the conditions necessary for life are present. As far as our knowledge goes, such conditions are not present anywhere else.

To get an idea of some of these conditions necessary for hosting life, consider the issue of the Earth's size. Had the Earth been considerably smaller or bigger than it presently is, life on it would have become impossible. For example, if the Earth were as small as the moon—if its diameter were a fourth of its present size—its gravitational force would turn into a sixth of what it is now. As a result, the Earth would not have been able to maintain water on its surface and air on top of it, and then life here would have been simply inconceivable. On the other hand, had the Earth's diameter been twice what it presently is, its gravitational force would double. As a result, the Earth's atmosphere, which stretches to around 500 miles above the Earth's surface, would have been pulled down. The atmospheric pressure would have then increased by between 15 to 30 pounds per square inch, which would prove to be very harmful in various ways for life.

Consider another feature of the amazing way Earth has been designed in a manner that is conducive to life. Earth is surrounded by a blanket—the atmosphere—500 miles high. If this thickness were reduced from 500 to 400 miles, the atmospheric pressure would increase to one ton per square inch. Due to this extraordinary pressure would no longer be possible for living beings to flourish on Earth. An animal that weighed one pound would now weigh some 150 pounds!

Reflect on another fascinating aspect of Earth that shows how perfectly it has been designed for life to flourish on it. Earth completes one round around its axis in 24 hours. In other words, Earth is travelling around its axis at around 1000 miles an hour. Now, suppose this speed were to drop to 200 miles an hour, our days and nights would become ten times longer than at present. In summer, the sharp sunlight would burn up all the plants on Earth, and what might remain would be subjected to frost during the long nights.

Think of another interesting aspect: The sun, which provides heat and light, is a really hot place. Its surface temperature is 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit! The sun is located around 93 million miles from the Earth. This distance is maintained with amazing regularity. This phenomenon is exceedingly significant for us because if the distance between the sun and the Earth were to reduce substantially—for instance, if it were to half—it would become so hot on Earth that life here would be impossible.

On the other hand, if this distance were to double, Earth would become so cold that, once again, life would be not possible here. The same would happen if an extraordinarily bigger and hotter star assumed the place of the sun. Its immense heat would have caused the Earth to become like a furnace.

Another special feature of the Earth that indicates how its design is well-calculated for the flourishing of life as we know it is that its axis is tilted at around 23 degrees. This tilt gives us our seasons. As a result of this tilt, large portions of the surface of the Earth have become inhabitable and can host different sorts of plants and crops. Had the Earth not been tilted like this, there would have been perpetual darkness in the polar regions, with major consequences for climate change. There would be many other such effects, as a result of which life would have become impossible on Earth.

If the surmise is true that Earth came into being after breaking off from the sun, its initial temperature would have been the same as that of the sun—i.e., 12,000 degrees Fahrenheit. Gradually, Earth must have cooled after that. It would not have been possible for hydrogen and oxygen to combine until Earth's temperature had declined to 4000 degrees. When that happened, water, essential for life, came into being. Then, millions of years passed with many dramatic transformations on Earth's surface, and perhaps a billion or so years ago, Earth acquired its present shape. A major portion of the gases present in the Earth's atmosphere went into **khala/space**. Some went into forming water, while some were absorbed into various things present on Earth. Another portion remained in the form of air in the Earth's atmosphere, consisting mainly of oxygen and nitrogen. Why was it that all this happened exactly this way, with the gases apportioned in particular proportions and quantities? This may be exactly what was necessary for life as we know it to exist.

Earth's upper atmosphere is a collection of gases, of which 78% is nitrogen and 21% oxygen, with other gases in very small proportions. Here, the question arises of how these gases combined and remained in just the right quantity and proportion in the atmosphere necessary for life. For example, if the proportion of oxygen in the atmosphere had been 50% instead of 21%, many things on the face of the Earth might have easily caught fire. On the other hand, had this proportion been substantially lower, human life as we know it would have been impossible on Earth.

Oxygen, hydrogen and carbon dioxide are separately formed and are extremely important components of life. There is not even a chance of one in a billion that they could come together by chance in just the right proportions they are present in that enable human life to flourish on Earth.

Consider some more examples that highlight how finely and wisely designed our Earth is:

- An estimated 25 million meteoroids, micrometeoroids and other space debris enter Earth's atmosphere each day, which results in an estimated 15,000 tons of that material entering the Earth's atmosphere each year. If this atmosphere had been considerably thinner than it is now, many meteorites would have fallen on the Earth. These meteorites travel between six and forty miles per second. They would have burnt up every flammable thing on Earth and converted its surface into a vast field full of craters. Meteorites, which travel 90 times faster than the bullet of a gun, can turn a creature like a man into pieces simply by their heat, but the Earth's atmosphere, on account of its exceedingly accurate and appropriate thickness, protects us from this fiery onslaught.
- The Earth's atmosphere keeps just the right amount of density so that actinic sun rays reach the Earth in just the appropriate quantity necessary for the life of plants. For the quantity to be exactly per our needs is astounding.
- One of water's properties is that the density of ice is less than that of water. Water has an exceptional quality: When it freezes, it becomes lighter rather than heavier. This water feature has great significance for preserving aquatic life in regions where it becomes very cold in winter and water bodies freeze. Because of this feature, it is possible for ice to float on the water's surface and not sink below, for otherwise, all the water would turn solid, thereby putting an end to all aquatic life. This ice becomes a protective layer on the water's surface, enabling the temperature below to remain above freezing point. Due to this unique quality, fish and other water animals remain alive even in cold winters in regions where it snows and water-bodies freeze.
- In Australia, a sort of cactus was sown as fences for fields. There was no enemy insect of this tree in the country, so it began to grow very rapidly. It entered even into cities and villages and rendered fields desolate, and made agriculture very difficult, if not impossible. No scheme seemed to work against it. The cactus seemed invincible. However, experts worked on a solution till they finally arrived at an insect whose only food was cactus. This insect finally established control over the seemingly invincible army of this cactus in Australia, and then the problem was solved.

Checks and balances of this sort abound in Nature. Can any person reasonably claim that they have come about by mere chance, on their own, and not because of conscious planning?

- An astounding mathematical precision is found in the universe. Here, the matter that appears stagnant and unconscious is not without order, organisation and meticulous arrangement. It is bound by certain defined and definite laws. For

instance, no matter when and where the word 'water' is uttered, it will have only one meaning—a compound that consists of two parts of oxygen and one part of hydrogen. Everywhere on Earth, water will boil at the same temperature—100 degrees Celsius—as long as the atmospheric pressure is 760 mm. Had there not been this sort of order, discipline and regularity in matter and energy, there would have been no basis for scientific research and inventions because then, in this world, only mere chance would reign, and for scientists, it would be impossible to say that under such-and-such conditions if one uses such-and-such method, such-and-such results will appear.

- In the field of Chemistry, almost the first thing a new student is shown is the Periodic Table of Elements. It categorizes elements into groups based on their atomic numbers—the number of protons present in the nucleus of the atom of an element. These numbers create the difference between the atom of one element and another. For example, hydrogen has one proton in its nucleus, while helium has two and lithium three. It is possible to prepare a **jadul/table [p. 176, last para, line 2]** because an amazing mathematical regularity prevails. This regularity prevails across space and time.

What can be a better example of order, regularity and arrangement? We do not call this great organisation in Nature 'periodic chance'. Rather, we call it a 'periodic law', testifying to its regularity and order.

- Astronomers have such faith in the regularity and predictability of the solar system's movement that they can predict that a solar eclipse will happen at a particular time on a particular date. For instance, based on calculations, it has been predicted that a long solar eclipse will happen in 2132.
- We are astounded when we look up at the sky and see innumerable stars. These huge balls that have been in the space for aeons have their own specific and determined pathways and are moving about continuously. Moreover, they travel in their orbits with such discipline and regularity that their location at a certain time can be predicted with complete accuracy centuries earlier.
- Unparalleled order, precision and organisation are found in the universe, from a humble drop of water to distant stars spread out in space. There is such a degree of regularity in the functioning of various things in the natural world that we can devise laws. Newton's theory of gravity explains the motion of astronomical bodies. **As a result, British scientist John Couch Adams (1819-1892) and French scientist Urbain Jean Joseph Le Verrier (1811-1877) could predict, simply on mathematical bases and without even having viewed it, the presence of a planet that, till then had remained unknown. Thus, in September 1846, when the direction of a telescope in the Berlin Observatory turned to the location**

they had mentioned at night, they spotted that planet that is presently known as 'Neptune'. [PLEASE CHECK THIS SECTION AGAINST THE ORIGINAL—LAST PARA ON P. 177 AND 1ST PARA OF P. 178]

These and innumerable other phenomena in the universe cannot be explained without accepting the role of a higher intelligence behind them. How absurd it is to think that all this could result from matter organising itself on its own! The regularity, predictability, order, precision, and fine-tuning found in the universe certainly demand a Creator of the universe who is also its Master. If modern science does not accept God, it will deny a necessary result of its findings.

Intelligent Universe

The solar system includes the sun and all those astronomical bodies that, directly or indirectly, are within the sun's gravitational pull and revolve around the sun, each in their specific orbit. Our understanding is that there is only one such solar system in which our Earth is located in the known universe. However, astronomers think that there could perhaps be a million or so more such solar systems in the universe.

A 'galaxy' is used for a collection of stars that move around in a particular system. For example, our galaxy is the Milky Way, which appears as a long white stream in the night sky. It contains approximately one hundred billion stars, and our solar system is located in it. There are said to be more than 100 billion or so such galaxies in the vast observable universe, and in each galaxy, there are said to be several billion stars, many of which are huge.

Taking all its planets, the sun revolves around the centre of the Milky Way galaxy at an average velocity of 8,28,000 kilometres an hour. This galaxy is so vast that despite the rapid speed journey of the sun, it takes us about 230 million years to make one complete orbit around the Milky Way!

Inside a galaxy, stars are located at vast distances from each other. For example, the star nearest to our sun is so far that it takes its light more than four years (travelling at 1,86,000 miles per second) to reach Earth!

We need to ask ourselves: What has been preserving and maintaining such a vast system of astronomical bodies in such perfect order and arrangement for billions of years without any deviation whatsoever? According to astronomers, it is the mutual attraction between these bodies.

How strange it is that man understands the meaning of the phrase 'the mutual attraction of astronomical bodies' but cannot understand the meaning of the word 'God' that stands for that Being behind this simply astounding phenomenon!

Meaningful Exception

A strange aspect of the universe is that there is no complete uniformity. In every portion, exceptions are found. These exceptional examples are proof of the fact that this universe has a great Creator. An exception in the universe is proof of intelligent intervention in the universe, and intelligent intervention in the universe is proof of an intelligent Creator of the universe, who can, through His will, intervene to make it possible for there to be an exception to a general rule.

For example, the solar system is an exception in the vast universe. In the solar system, Planet Earth is an exception. The size of Earth, which is just the way it should be for human life to flourish at its best, is an exception. Earth's life-support system is an exception. Life on Earth is an exception. Man being on Earth is an exception. And so on.

These different sorts of exceptions found in our world are not random exceptions without any significance. Rather, they are extremely significant exceptions. In the vast universe, these meaningful exceptions are definite proof that this universe has a Creator who had made this universe in line with a deliberate plan. Where He wanted, He arranged for uniformity among things, and where He chose to, He caused exceptions to be present.

For example, in the structure of the bodies of human beings, there is uniformity, but each person's genetic code is unique. Likewise, everyone's fingers look structurally similar, but each person's thumb impression is different. These exceptions amidst uniformity are evidence of intervention and intelligent design by the Creator. As atheists might insist, they cannot result from blind chance or coincidence.

Signs in the Universe

Samuel Taylor Coleridge (1772-1834) was a famous English philosopher and poet. A well-known poem of his is titled *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner*. In this poem, Coleridge talks about a mariner who has got stuck in the sea and has no potable water to drink. This is because the sea's water is spread out on all sides of the ship. However, because it is salty, it cannot be drunk:

Water, water everywhere,

Nor any drop to drink.

The state of Coleridge's imaginary mariner is potentially that of all human beings in this world. Man cannot remain alive without water. However, all of the water in the sea is very salty, with salt forming one part out of ten of seawater. Because of this, no one can drink it.

The Creator has arranged for this to be handled through the phenomenon of rain. Due to the impact of the sun's heat, evaporation occurs in the sea. The sea's water turns into vapour and moves up towards the atmosphere. However, in line with the law of Nature,

its salt component remains in the sea, and only the sweet water component goes up. This cleansed water then falls on land, in the form of rain, and gives man the sweet water he needs.

This natural desalination process through rain is an amazing aspect of the universe. If a person reflects just on this one phenomenon, he can be so overwhelmed that he can begin to dance in the awareness of God's wonders!

Quasars: Brighter Than A Billion Stars

When the atmosphere is very clear, one can see long light clouds in the night sky. It is our galaxy, the Milky Way. These clouds of light are not clouds. Rather, they are uncountable collections of stars that appear to be joined together because they are very far from us. If you view them through a telescope, you will see them as separate stars. The sun, which is 12,00,000 times the size of Earth, appears to be very big, but many of the stars in our galaxy are bigger than even the sun.

Uncountable galaxy-like clusters of this sort and other such amazing astronomical phenomena are spread across the vast expanse of the universe. For example, among the astounding discoveries of astronomy are what are called 'quasars'.

A quasar is an astronomical object of very high luminosity found in the centre of some galaxies. The brightest quasars can outshine all of the stars in the galaxies in which they reside, making them visible even at billions of light-years. As a result, quasars are among the most distant and luminous objects known. The radiant energy of quasars is enormous. The most powerful quasars have luminosities thousands of times greater than a galaxy, such as our galaxy, the Milky Way. An entire galaxy (with around 100 billion stars, many of which may be much bigger than our sun) emits a huge amount of energy (light and heat), but a single quasar can emit even more energy than that!

This Earth, which is filled with blessings, is a manifestation of God's beauty, and the fiery stars in the space are a manifestation of God's majesty. If the Earth's life-support system is a sign of Paradise, the blazing balls of fire in the form of stars in the sky remind one of Hell. If a person reflects on these signs in the Earth and the skies, he can be filled with remembrance of God. The Quran (3:190-191) points to this in these words:

There are signs in the creation of the heavens and the earth and the alternation of night and day for people of understanding; who remember God while standing, sitting and [lying] on their sides, and ponder over the creation of the heavens and the earth [...]

Importance of Discovery

The most important thing for man is discovery. It is only through discovery that progress in the world has happened. Moreover, through discovery, one can obtain **akhirat ki taraqqiyan Bhi/success hereafter**. According to the Quran (2:3), the ideal person

believes in the **unseen/Unseen**. Now, what is it to believe in the Unseen? It is, in other words, to make the unknown known—which is the same thing that is today called ‘discovery’.

God has hidden the secrets of worldly progress inside the Earth and in the skies. These secrets are called ‘The Laws of Nature’. [p. 187, para 3, lines 1-2] A major focus of science is discovering these secrets (or laws of Nature). The people who discover these laws and draw benefit from them advance beyond others, as has happened in the modern era in the case of several Western nations and Japan. The progress of ‘developed’ countries has been obtained based on these discoveries.

In the same way, God has kept the world of the Hereafter hidden from man’s sight/Alam-e akhirat ko Allah Ta’ala ne insaan ki nazron se poshida kar diya hai. Now, man has to discover it. **He has to bring into shuhud a thing that is in the unseen/Jo cheez ghaib ma hai usko shuhud mai lana hai.** [P. 187, LAST PARA, 2ND LINE. PLEASE TRANSLATE IT. ALSO, PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS SENTENCE AS ITS MEANING DOES NOT SEEM VERY CLEAR] This discovery is called *iman* or **conviction/faith**. The more a person advances in this **iman/conviction/faith**, the more progress and success will he obtain in the Hereafter.

Universal Oneness

The study of the universe reveals that the entire universe revolves around a centre. The atom has a nucleus, and the entire structure of the atom revolves around this nucleus. The centre of the solar system is the sun, and all its planets and satellites are continuously revolving around it. Likewise, the galaxy has a centre, and billions of stars move around it. The universe has a centre, and all astronomical bodies in the universe are moving, along with their subsidiary movements, around this final centre.

Scientists estimate that this centre of the universe will one day begin to drag all things towards it, and then this vastly spread-out universe will begin to withdraw and contract towards its centre. Finally, the time will come when the entire collection of astronomical bodies in the universe **will compress together in the form of something like a ball/gola** [P. 188, PARA 2], like a magnet drawing to it bits of iron scattered around. In the Quran (21:104), God says:

We shall roll up the heavens like a parchment scroll on that day. As We originated the first creation, so shall We repeat it. This is a promise binding on Us. Truly, We shall fulfil it.

In this way, the universe is, as it were, a practical **muzhaira/expression/manifestation** of the **Deen-e Tauhid/Divine path of Oneness**. The language of amal/empirical reality/practice narrates how man’s life should be. Man’s life should be such that all his activities should have just one centre: the One God. Man’s emotions, his thinking, his activities—all of these should begin to revolve around this one centre.

If a person makes himself his centre and axis, the universe will reject him. The same will be the case if he makes another creature other than himself, his centre and his axis. The present structure of the universe refuses to accept the centrality of anyone but the One God. In **zaban-e hal/Through its very existence**, the universe says, “Make the One the centre of your attention, not the ‘many’”.

God’s Greatness

Realization of God is the basis of faith in God. It is the basis of Islam. The higher one’s realization of God, the higher one’s level of faith in God. The culmination of this realization happens when one discovers God with God’s grand majesty. When a person discovers God with God’s greatness, his state reflects in these words of the Quran (8:2):

Only they are true believers whose hearts fill up with awe when the name of God is mentioned [...]

A positive contribution of modern astronomy in this regard is that it has given a framework to perceive the unfathomable majesty of God. With the help of this framework, man can bring some idea of the inexpressible greatness of God into his mind.

Modern astronomy can be said to have begun in 1608, with the invention of the telescope. The telescopic observation of the skies then kept advancing over the years. Earlier, observatories for studying astronomical bodies were built on top of mountains. Now, in the age of space science, man has invented space observatories, through which it has become possible to observe the universe at such great distances that can be expressed only in terms of light-years. In this way, man now has access to a new and much bigger field wherein to grow in awareness of the greatness of God.

Consider a recent astronomical discovery: A very big black hole has been discovered through an electronic telescope installed in space. This black hole can swallow up the entire solar system! It is bigger than all the black holes that have been discovered so far. It is said to weigh the same as 6.8 billion suns! According to scientists, this black hole, identified as M87, is as large as the orbit of Neptune!

This phenomenon—and other similar phenomena—is a great treasure trove for the realization of God. These phenomena convey some idea of God’s incredible power and majesty. If one reflects on these phenomena, one’s heart can be overwhelmed with awareness of God’s greatness. They remind man of his extreme helplessness and powerlessness, on the one hand, and of God’s enormous might, on the other.

Realization of God can be described as the discovery or realization of man’s limitedness, on the one hand, and God’s limitlessness, on the other hand. The realization of God refers to the condition that overwhelms a person due to this discovery. If one obtains this realization, or, in other words, makes this discovery, it is as if the doors of all the

sadats/ blessings of the world and the Hereafter have been opened unto him. It is he who is that fortunate person about whom in the Hereafter it will be said:

**Tum jannat ke darwazon mai se jis darwaze se chahey jannat mai dakhil ho jai.
Aaj ke baad tumhare liye na koi khauf hai na koi hizn**

**[P. 190. PLEASE TRANSLATE. IF THIS IS FROM THE QURAN OR IF IT IS A HADITH,
PLEASE MENTION THIS AND PROVIDE A REFERENCE]**

Faith in God

There is a God of the universe, Creator, Owner, Lord and Master. The greatest evidence for this God is the universe itself that is spread out before us. The universe's existence announces that there is a great God who made it and who is running it with His awesome power.

Because the universe is so obvious a fact to us, we are compelled to accept its existence of the universe. For the same reason, we are compelled to accept the existence of God, for accepting the universe is meaningless as long as one does not accept its Creator and Maker. This universe is so amazing that it could not have come into being without a Maker, and its functioning is so amazing that it cannot be possible without some Supreme Mind running it. Man is as compelled to accept God as he is to accept himself or the universe.

If you place little pebbles on the wheel of a cycle and start peddling the cycle, the wheel will begin to move fast, and the pebbles will shoot out and land at quite a distance away, even though the speed of the cycle might not be very much—at the most perhaps 25 miles or so an hour. The Earth on which we are presently living is like a huge wheel. It is continuously racing around its axis at around 1000 miles an hour. This speed is faster than that of an ordinary passenger aeroplane. We live and move about on this fast-speeding Earth. We build houses and entire cities on it. However, our state is not like that of pebbles placed on a fast-moving wheel. We do not fall off from the surface of the Earth, nor are we hurled into space. How strange is this miracle!

Scientific investigation reveals that the reason for us being stable on Earth is that the force of gravity pulls us down from below, and from above, the heavy pressure of the atmosphere pushes us down, thus keeping us firmly rooted on the surface of the Earth. This two-way process works to keep us stable on Earth, and this is why we do not fly off like pebbles on a wheel into space.

However, this answer only tells us that an even bigger miracle is present behind the power of gravity and the atmospheric pressure, which work to keep us in place on the Earth's surface. There must be some Mind that has arranged for both the force of gravity and the atmospheric pressure and for them to be in just the right measure to keep things and beings, including humans, stable on Earth. Moreover, that Mind is God.

Miraculous isn't it!

However, everything in this world is a miracle. A farmer places a tiny seed in some mud. After some days, he sees a green and white radish appearing inside the soil. When he plants another seed, he sees a red carrot forming. Putting another sort of seed in the mud, guavas come into being; some other seeds bring forth mangos. One seed produces a *Sheesham* tree, while a chinar tree emerges from another. And then, each of these looks different. The beauty of each is unique, and so are their benefits and special qualities. The soil is the same, and the seeds are extremely tiny. However, many different things emerge from these little seeds planted in the same soil, with so many qualities that they cannot be enumerated!

An entire universe of mindboggling miracles is visibly spread out before us on all sides. In a world where even if all human beings get together, they cannot create even a single particle out of nothing, every moment, innumerable things are being constantly created by someone other than us humans. These are amazing miracles that man's tongue cannot express their greatness. Even all the words in a dictionary would be completely insufficient to narrate them. Our words only limit the vast greatness of these miracles; they do not express anything of them at all.

As atheists claim, are these miracles possible to come into being on their own, without a God?

Everything in the universe is made up of atoms. Everything in its ultimate analysis is a collection of atoms. However, what an amazing miracle it is that a certain quantity of atoms collects in one place, and they become a shining star like the sun. In another place, atoms come together and assume the form of a flowing river. In a third place, atoms coalesce and assume the form of a fine breeze. In some other places, atoms take the shape of fertile land. In this way, there are uncountable things in the world, and all, have been arranged through a collection of atoms. However, their status, nature, and special features are separate and different.

A miraculous universe of this sort, along with its uncountable activities, is engaged in the service of man. Whatever man needs for his life has been put together on a vast scale. In order to make the world usable for himself, the quantum of effort that man has to engage in on his own is relatively very little. In line with the system of the universe, precious nourishment for man is being produced in uncountable quantities without man's intervention. Almost everything we do in this is to operate our hands and mouths and put the food in our stomachs. Moreover, after that, without even our intention or planning and in line with a self-operating natural system of digestion, the food we consume is transformed inside our bodies, assuming the form of flesh, blood, bones, nails, hair and many other such things.

Alternatively, to take another example, through various processes in which man plays no role, that amazing liquid is produced called 'petroleum'. All that man does is extract it, refine it and fill his machines with it, and then this liquid fuel runs the whole system of human civilization!

Likewise, in the universe, all those things have been made available, in abundant quantity, which man has to only work on a bit to turn into items that meet his needs and wants, from clothes and houses to machines and vehicles.

Are these phenomena in the world not sufficient evidence that there is a Creator and One who runs the universe and has arranged for all the many things a man needs to live and thrive, with just the right features and proportions?

Now view the matter from another aspect. The world contains 'raw materials of various sorts, which man uses to make many different things. In order to make them usable for himself, the man plays a very small part. For example, the shapes iron ore into a machine, and, refining oil, he fills the tanks of his cars with it. However, the result of such simple human actions is that the land and the seas have now been filled with chaos and corruption. Nature has bestowed us with an extremely beautiful and pure world, but our actions have caused us to be surrounded by smoke, noise, dirt, destruction, conflicts, and various insoluble problems. Innumerable times more work than the little action that we perform in our fields, factories and offices keeps happening, day and night, in the vast universe, but no such problems are produced.

Earth is continuously engaged in two types of movement: one is moving around its axis, and the other is moving around the sun. These movements have been carried on non-stop for millions of years. However, they produce no sound and generate no pollution.

A tree functions as a great factory, as it were, but it does not spew out any smoke.

Countless living creatures die every day in the sea, but this does not pollute the waters.

Innumerable stars and planets are racing about in the vast firmament every moment, but no change ever happens in their speed and orbits. They never slow down or go faster. Nor do they step out of their clearly-defined routes, which they have been following for millennia.

The system of the universe has been functioning for billions of years, but its planning is so perfect that never has there been a need to review it.

Are these all not mind-boggling miracles? However, after all of these, is there still a need for evidence in order for man to acknowledge that behind the universe is a Divine Power—Almighty God?

Reflect on the phenomenon of life itself. It is such an amazing event that a few material particles come together in a body, and a new living being is produced: becoming a fish which swims in the water, a bird that flies in the sky, or a human being who builds a

civilization. In line with some mysterious causes, a body is formed inside a mother. Bones are brought into being, which assumes the form of a very meaningful structure. Then, a layer of flesh is put on this structure, which is covered by a layer of skin. Hair and nails are made to sprout. In the entire body, blood canals are laid out. In this way, through a seemingly self-operating process, an amazing being called 'man' is formed, who walks, holds, sees, hears, tastes thinks, does, remembers, acquires information, writes, speaks, and so on. For such an amazing existence to emerge from 'dead' matter, as it were, is such an amazing event that even the word 'miracle' is not sufficient to describe how mindboggling it truly is.

If a person were to say that he has heard a bit of mud speak and see a stone walk, people would be amazed. They would hardly believe him. However, the external form of the human being, who speaks and who moves about, is, after all, just mud-and-stones, as it were. The components of his physical body are quite the same as that of mud and stones. We would think it astounding if we heard that mud and stones were speaking and walking somewhere, but even more astounding for us should be the creature called 'man'. For human life and consciousness to be produced in 'lifeless' matter (in mere 'mud' and 'stones' as it were)—is this not evidence of the fact that there is a superior Being, who, with His extraordinary power, has brought about this amazing miracle?

People ask for some miraculous proof to accept God and God's message for humankind. However, what other miracles do people require from the many already present in the entire universe? If such miracles are not enough for man to bow down before God Almighty, how will he become ready to accept God on seeing any other miracle?

The fact is that to accept God and surrender before Him **the thing that is needed [PLEASE EXPLAIN. P. 195, PARA 1]** is present before the man at every moment. However, if a man does not accept God and God's beauty and majesty, it is man's fault and not that of the universe.

God and Man

The greatest evidence for the existence of God is man's existence itself. **It is as reasonable to accept a Being like God as accepting a being like a man. If we accept just one man, there should be no obstacle for us to accept the One God. [CHECK THIS AGAINST P. 196, PARA 1 IN THE ORIGINAL]**

In the Quran (15:29), God breathed His spirit into man. It means that man is a **bashari namuna of God's sifaat/ model in the form of a created being of God's attributes/that reflects God's attributes**. The **haqiqi mazhar/true embodiment/real manifestation** of existence, life, knowledge, power, will and other such attributes is God's **zaat/Being** alone, and an **aks (na ki hissa)/ reflection of these (and not a portion of these)** has been given to man. **Man is not a part of God, but in his being, he is clear evidence that God whom man ought to accept exists in the Unseen/ jis Khudako ghaibi taur par**

maanney ka insaan se mutaliba kiya gaya hai. [CHECK THIS PARA AGAINST PARA 2, P. 196 OF THE ORIGINAL]

Man possesses all those special characteristics at the visible level, which he ought to accept that the God possesses at the level of the Unseen. [CHECK THIS AGAINST P. 196, PARA 3]

Man has a **mustaqil wujud/ existence of his own**. He can see, hear, to speak. He thinks and makes plans. He moves about in line with his will. He transforms matter into civilization. He is aware of his self. He knows that 'I am'. **Unhi sifat ki kaamil hasti ka naam Khuda hai/ That Being that has these same attributes in their complete and perfect form is God. [PARA 4, P. 196]**

However, man's existence is **ghair haqiqi/ unreal in the absolute sense**, and God's existence is **haqiqi/real in the absolute sense**. Man is a creature, while God is the Creator. Man is limited, while God is unlimited. Man is powerless, while God is All-Powerful. Man is **fani/perishable**, and God is **ghair-fani/imperishable**. Whatever man has is a gift from God, whereas whatever God has **voh Uska zati hai/ is His own**; it is not given by someone else. **[CHECK AGAINST P.196, 3RD LAST PARA]**

Insaan ko manna bila tashbiya 'chhote Khuda' ko manna hai. Then what is why he does not accept the 'Bade Khuda'? [CHECK AGAINST P. 196, 2ND LAST PARA] A person who does not accept God certainly acknowledges himself. He acknowledges human existence. There is no argument or evidence not to accept God for the person who accepts man. By acknowledging the existence of man, he has also accepted the existence of God, irrespective of whether or not he has expressed this in words.

Haqiqat yeh hai ki Khuda ka inkar khud apna inkaar hai, aur kaun hai jo khud apna inkaar kar sakta hai?/ [P. 196, LAST PARA] The fact is that denial of God is a denial of oneself, and who is there who can deny himself?

How Little We Know!

The human mind is so complex that we still know relatively very little about it despite enormous research. It can be said that the more we know, the more we realise how little we know and how much more we need to know!

Research reveals that a brilliant person like Einstein used great mental faculties and used a very small portion of his brain. The greater part of his brain remained unused till his death.

Experts have estimated that man's brain contains more than the number of particles in the universe. The brain's capacity is immense, but not even a great scientist has used more than a tenth of it.

Man is a possibility, but with all its limitations, the present world is insufficient to manifest this possibility. A limitless and vast world is required to manifest human

possibility fully. In a sense, the world of Paradise has been made so that there, man's possibilities can be fully manifested.

This Beautifully-Arranged System

Innumerable stars constantly move about in space, but there is no clash. Of course, if one planet were to crash into another, it would cause enormous destruction. However, that does not happen.

The precise location of the sun is of great significance in the sustenance of life on Earth. It is located far from a region in space that is characterised by the presence of dangerous supernovas. Because of this, Earth is protected from its impact. Furthermore, the sun is located in one corner of the Milky Way galaxy. Many of the astronomical bodies there could have crashed onto Earth had it been located at the centre of the Milky Way. Likewise, the electromagnetic waves coming out from the galaxy's centre could have been harmful to some living beings.

The moon is located fairly close to Earth. However, it does not crash against Earth, whereas man-made satellites routinely fall on Earth when their time is up. It is estimated that the weight of the moon is 73.5 million tons. Its diameter is 3500 kilometres, and its distance from Earth is some 3,84,000 kilometres. The earth revolves around the sun, and the moon revolves around Earth. It has been happening for millions of years. However, their system is so firm and fixed that they remain established in their orbits with complete accuracy. Earth's magnetic force pulls the moon towards it, **but the force of the moon's motion keeps it constantly distant from Earth.** As a result of these two mutual processes of gravity and motion, the moon's pathway adopts the form of a long oval orbit. If the moon were to depart from its orbit and begin to fall towards Earth, its speed would be 11 kilometres a second. If it were to rush with such great speed and crash on the Earth, it would be a more serious accident than all the bombs in the world exploding simultaneously. However, this has never happened. Have you thought about why? Could 'good fortune' or 'mere chance' account for it? Does it not point to some Divine arrangement?

Signs in the Universe

"If you break some stones and grind some wood and mix them, it will turn into petrol": Such talk may appear ridiculously funny. Certainly, man does not have the power to make something like this happen. However, an event of the same sort is happening in the world every day, as the working of the laws of Nature brings petroleum into being, something which for man is only an inexplicable marvel.

Oxygen and hydrogen are two gases. When Nature unites them in specific proportions, their union manifests as a clear liquid known as 'water'. When carbon gets together with some salts and minerals, life comes into being. When a magnetic field and motion

combine, a tremendous force—electricity—is produced. When a seed is mixed with mud, a plant emerges. And so on.

Uncountable miracles of this sort are at every moment being manifested in the entire universe. On observing them, man is—or, rather, should be—amazed. He notices that these things do not have the power to bring themselves into being and that nor does he have the power to produce anything like them on his own. That being the case, how is all of this happening?

In answer to this question, some people say that all these phenomena are manifestations of God—that is, that everything is God Himself, who is manifesting Himself in innumerable forms. However, this is improper. According to the Quran, these things are not a part of God, but God's **hukum/command/a manifestation of God's command**. That is, God has, with His power, created them. It is not that God has manifested Himself in their form.

Stars have, since ancient times, been a focus of poets' fancies and imagination. Some have considered the moon as a 'god'. However, the reality is different. Stars are big balls of fire, and the moon is simply a dry rock on which there is not even a drop of water or a single blade of grass. Therefore, despite being extremely vast, the universe is an exceedingly unfavourable place for man, with one exception: Planet Earth. This exception of the Earth in this limitlessly vast universe is clear evidence of the existence of a conscious Being who, with His intention, has created the exceptional conditions to prevail on Earth that are necessary for human life to be possible there.

For some decades now, scientists have been making efforts to discover planets that are similar to Earth so that it could be proved that our Earth is not an exception in the universe but, rather, that there are other astronomical bodies with conditions similar to those that prevail on Earth that are necessary for life. For some people, the intention might be to seek to prove that the creator of the universe is 'The Law of Nature' or 'The Law of Evolution' and not God. However, despite spending billions of dollars on this purpose, they have achieved nothing but failure.

Man's Powerlessness

Man's condition in this world is very strange. He finds himself alive here, with an individual existence of his own, but this existence is a gift, for he has not bestowed it on himself. Man requires all those many things to live that comprise the life-support system, but he cannot create any of these. Man desires eternal life, but every human being who takes birth on Earth dies at an appointed time. It is entirely beyond man's capacity to stave off the arrival of death.

Man is, in a complete sense, a needy creature. For fulfilling all his needs, he is completely dependent on an external Power. This aspect of men being informed him that in this world, he is only a taker and that, on the other hand, there is someone else

here—the Creator—who is a Giver, on whom a man is dependent for everything. This equation should lead man to think about his reality and shape his life accordingly. He should recognise both his actual position and the actual position of the Creator.

Briefly put, if man reflects on his case with seriousness, he will find that in this world, he is in the position of a slave and that God is in the position of his Master. Therefore, that person alone deserves to be called a true human being who discovers this reality using his intellectual abilities. For him, are all the eternal successes decreed? In contrast, a person who fails to discover this reality is a beast in the garb of a human being. For him, there is nothing but loss.

The person who discovers this reality will, in a very natural way, respond to it in a manner that reflects these words of the very first chapter of the Quran (1:2):

All praise is due to God, the Lord of the Universe.

These words express gratefulness to that Almighty Being who is the Sustainer of all the worlds **and the One who compensates for all the limitations of human beings/Jo Insan ki tamaam kamiyon ki talafi karney wala hai. This acknowledgement can produce a veritable revolution inside a person if he is overwhelmed with an intense love for God and intense fear of God.** This person is referred to in the Quran as a **momin/true devotee of God.**

Lesson for Man

Reflecting on his creation, man can learn great things. His life is itself a veritable library. Through studying himself, he can learn many big lessons.

For example, when man observes this universe, he notices that it functions in a very planned manner. The sun rises and sets with amazing accuracy, but such order, regularity and precision are absent in the human world. Similarly, the entire universe functions on the principle of zero-defect management, while in contrast to this, there are always defects in man's management of things. If man studies these issues dispassionately and with an open mind, he can discover the existence of the Almighty God through his study. This discovery will compel him to say, in the words of the Quran (14:10):

Is there any doubt about God, the Originator of the heavens and earth?

This discovery can become, for him, a rediscovery. As a result, he can begin to discover these things more effectively. For example, the Quran (14:34) says: **"He has given you all that you asked of Him; and if you try to reckon up God's favours, you will not be able to count them."** Reflecting on these words, when man recognises that he finds himself in such a human-friendly world, this awareness can greatly increase his sense of gratitude.

Protective Shield

The Quran (21:32) says:

We have made heaven a well-secured canopy [...]

From this, we learn that God has made **asman (abalai fiza)/the upper atmosphere** with His **Rehmat/mercy** and power, in such a way that it becomes a means to protect man from harmful things. There are numerous aspects of this Divine system. One part of it is the atmospheric gas called 'ozone'.

The sun provides us light and heat, and without it, human life on Earth would have been impossible. However, some things in the sun's rays—for example, ultraviolet rays—can lead to various illnesses, and an excess of them can even kill human beings and animals. Ultraviolet rays are continuously being emitted from the sun and coming towards Earth. Despite this, how is it that human beings and animals are still alive on Earth?

The reason for this is that Earth's atmosphere, which stretches several hundred miles over the surface of the Earth, has several layers, and one of these consists of ozone gas. Due to its particular structure, when ultraviolet rays fall on it, it absorbs them, preventing them from reaching Earth's surface. This layer of ozone gas saves man from the harm of ultraviolet rays.

As mentioned above, the Quran (21:32) relates: "We have made the heaven a well-secured canopy [...]". God has established a protective roof above Earth, in the atmosphere. The scientific research on the atmosphere in recent times is an intellectual **taa'eed/support** in favour of this statement of the Quran. Research has revealed that in the atmosphere, at the height of between 20-50 kilometres, a natural reaction occurs among the gases present there. A new molecule emerges from this process, which produces ozone gas. As a result, a thick layer of ozone gas is spread on all sides of the Earth. This atmospheric umbrella works as a protective shield for man. Without it, it would not have been possible for human beings to be alive on Earth.

Modern industrial civilization has produced new problems for man. One of these is that due to factories' production of certain gases, great damage is being done to the ozone layer. As a result, ultraviolet rays will get a pathway to reach the Earth's surface, causing various sorts of unsolvable problems for man.

From the scientific point of view, the change in the atomic structure of the oxygen molecule is the cause of the production of ozone, which possesses the quality of absorbing harmful rays coming from the sun and preventing them from falling on the surface of the Earth. However, there is no rational or scientific evidence to prove that the oxygen molecule possesses the unique and beneficial ability to cause this change in the number of atoms on its own. The fact is that the one who saves man from the assault of harmful rays from the skies is God. At the external level, the change mentioned above (in the number of atoms) has been made to happen so that man sees

it and stops in his tracks, startled. Witnessing this external phenomenon, he should reach the inner reality: It should make him realise the presence of God.

On the one hand, the two phenomena—the presence of ozone in the system of Nature, on the one hand, and the destruction of ozone gas by modern industry, on the other—hold valuable lessons for us. They contain great signs for those who think and ponder. The thick layer of ozone gas in the atmosphere shows that the Being that made the world's system knew in advance the needs of the human beings who would be settled on Earth. He had prior knowledge that the sun's rays would also contain an aspect of harm and beneficial aspects. Therefore, he made the beneficial aspects **mustahkam/firmly established** and arranged for a system through which he could be protected from their harmful aspect when he was settled on Earth.

Now see the other side of the story, which emerged before us in the second half of the 20th century. Some decades ago, man invented that technology called 'air-conditioning'. This invention has provided man with many items of extraordinary comfort. Air-conditioned houses, offices and buildings are considered by many to be a necessary part of modern life. When air-conditioning was invented, it seemed to be wonderful, but modern research has shown that harm and its goodness are also present.

Modern air-conditioning is a CFC-based system. Unfortunately, CFC technology has today emerged as a big danger for man. CFC stands for 'chlorofluorocarbons', a chemical used to manufacture air-conditioning products. Factories that manufacture this chemical produce a byproduct called 'chlorine monoxide', which is causing grave damage to the ozone layer, so much so that it has caused a huge gap to appear in the atmosphere through which the harmful ultraviolet rays from the sun have begun to fall on the Earth, posing a grave threat to humanity. Thus, research is now happening on a large scale to discover an alternative material through which air-conditioners and other such products can be manufactured without producing this harmful chemical.

Now there are two models to consider here: the model of Nature, on the one hand, and the model of human industry, on the other. In the model of Nature, provision was made beforehand itself, in the form of the protective ozone layer, to prevent the sun's harmful rays from reaching the surface of the Earth so that man could be protected from them. However, on the other hand, the human beings who run big air-conditioning-related industrial empires could not know beforehand that their factories would seriously disturb the precious balance of Nature by damaging the ozone layer and that this would result in severe consequences for life on Earth.

This situation is evidence that behind the creation of the universe and its planned nature, there was a superior, Divine Mind—that is, the Creator God—at work. Had no such Mind been active therein, the system of Nature too would be characterized by the

same sort of defects and harmful consequences that manifest themselves in man-made industries. This reality is reflected in the following words of the Quran (67: 1-4):

Blessed is He in whose hand is the Kingdom: He has power over all things; He created death and life so that He might test you and find out which of you is best in conduct. He is the Mighty, the Most Forgiving One. He created seven heavens, one above the other in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the Gracious One. Then look once again: can you see any flaw? Then look again and again. Finally, your gaze will come back to you, confused and exhausted.

*

God created the sun, which was brought into existence before man settled on Earth. Therefore, God had prior knowledge that one part of the sun's rays would be harmful to man. Thus, God arranged for a **mohkam/firm** protective system in the atmosphere in the form of the ozone layer that could save man from these harmful rays. However, on the other hand, human engineers and scientists established the air-conditioning industry on Earth. From this industry, gas is emitted that rises in the atmosphere and damages the arrangement put in place to protect man from harmful sun rays. However, the human 'experts' came to know of this only when this harmful effect of their industry began to manifest itself in an acute form, and human beings began becoming its victims.

This comparative example, contrasting God's management with human management, indicates that the creation of the universe could not have come about without a Supreme Mind. It also tells us that the intelligence of the sort that man possesses is insufficient for bringing about this creation. Without a Supreme Mind, the present meaningful universe could never have come.

Gratitude to the Creator

Professor Carl Troll (1899-1975) was President of the International Geographical Union from 1960 to 1964. He once remarked:

The fruit of my life as a scientist and geographer is to have become more and more deeply grateful to our Creator.

When a scientist studies the world, an immense awareness of the wonders of the world wells up inside him, if he acknowledges the Creator of the world, as Professor Troll did, his inner self expresses its gratitude to that Being who brought such a meaningful universe into existence.

Some people wrongly think that scientific truths and religious truths are mutually contradictory. It is simply not true (contrary to what some believe) that the findings of modern science have automatically rebutted all religious truth claims. Many scientists are devout believers in the Creator God, finding enough evidence for God in the findings of modern science. It is a fact that some deniers of God among the philosophers

wrongly interpreted modern scientific discoveries to imply the non-existence of God, even though these discoveries, rightly interpreted, actually pointed in precisely the opposite direction—to God’s existence.

The Universe: A Mirror

The universe is a mirror in which the Face of the Creator **is visible/can be seen**. In this sense, everything in the universe is a sign of God. If a person can see, he will find meaningfulness in everything. With all its vast expansiveness, the present universe will become, for him, a great treasury for the realization of God.

The universe appears to be mathematical. It is mathematically ordered. It is an aspect of the universe that is prominently visible in every part and portion of it. An example of this is the two-way movement of Earth (rotating around its axis and revolving around the sun) that occurs with such precision that one can draw up a calendar that goes back thousands of years into the past or that goes thousands of years into the future. The same is the case with all other components of the physical universe. Every part of the physical universe functions following such clear, firm and definite principles that one can predict its future with great accuracy. This aspect of the physical universe greatly impresses scientists, so much so that they are now certain that the whole of it is a mathematical model. As long as they have not understood a particular thing at the mathematical level, they assume that they have not as yet understood it.

Scientists study the world of Nature. Even though science has many departments, and different scientists conduct their research and study separately, if one were to give a common label to their work, it could be ‘Searching for mathematical order in the universe.

It is the shared conviction of all scientists that there is a mathematically-precise **order/nazm** and **arrangement/design/tarkeeb** in the universe. A scientist becomes completely satisfied with his research findings (**only?**) when he can express his research in a mathematical mould. For scientists, mathematical verification is the ultimate evidence of a theory.

Scientists use mathematics to study the universe the same way as goldsmiths use a touchstone to distinguish between genuine gold and fake gold. A goldsmith regards a bit of metal as gold only if verified through a touchstone. In the same way, a scientist accepts a theory to be true only if it is verified to be so by mathematics.

Why is there this compatibility between the system of mathematics and the universe? Some scientists have raised this question. Without directly answering the question, some have shaped their answer in the form of an additional question—“Was the universe created by a mathematical Mind?”

Some scientists have provided a positive answer to this question. For example, in 1932, famous British physicist Sir James Jeans remarked that the universe appears to have been designed by a pure mathematician.

Moreover, that could only have been the Creator God.

Balance of Nature

The huge amount of ice present in Antarctica comprises 85% of the fresh water on Earth. If this ice were to melt, the height of the world's seas would rise by around 60-70 metres, and about a tenth of the land would come underwater. As a result, all coastal cities in the world would sink, as would several countries. In addition, the average temperature of the seas would decrease by around two degrees, resulting in climate disaster on Earth because it would affect the temperature of the whole planet.

The facts exemplify how balanced the system in place on Earth is. Here, a balance is maintained between numerous simultaneous requirements so that everything necessary for human life provides its benefits and man is protected from harm.

The balance of Nature is prominently visible in every aspect of the Earth. It tells us that a Mind is active behind this universe. Had there been no such Mind, this balance could be maintained over millions of years under no circumstances.

Studying the Earth, it becomes very clear that it is the One who is behind this universe that has made the present conditions on Earth in a particular way. He planned to have living beings (men, animals, plants) here, so everything here has been crafted very precisely, according to their needs. If this phenomenon does not convince a person of the existence of God, then what can?

Miracle of the Neem Tree

The Neem tree has attracted considerable attention among plant scientists in recent years. It is because Neem is a natural repellent against harmful insects. Man has invented several chemical-based insecticides, but all of them, in addition to impacting insects, also harm the environment, which has become very harmful to man. But not so Neem. Without causing any environmental damage, it can protect human beings and plants from harmful insects. Neem is said to have a unique defence system that works to control insects. It can reduce the number of harmful insects, thus resulting in a spectacular increase in crop outputs.

In modern times, across the world, the use of chemical-based insecticides has become very widespread. It may have helped augment agricultural yields, but it has had very harmful consequences for the environment and the health of human beings and other species. Particles from these chemical products enter the environment, and man ingests them through breathing and then falls prey to various illnesses. Until now, man has not been able to discover a method to prevent the harmful effects of using these products.

The widespread use of chemical-based insecticides is causing a serious decline in people's health standards, resulting in sickness and even death. However, despite all its apparent advances, man's science has not yet reached that level manifested in the form of the miracle of Nature called the Neem tree.

The Neem tree is living proof of God's existence. Only the Supreme Mind could have designed the Neem Tree, which functions as a natural insect-repellent without causing any damage to the environment and the health of human beings and other species. However, many people assume or argue that there is no Creator and Ruler of the universe and that there is no Mind running it.

Seeing a bottle of factory-manufactured chemical insecticide, no one would say that it came into being on its own or that 'Nature' produced it. Of course, every sensible person will know that it was produced in a factory. However, when they see a much better insecticide in the form of the Neem tree, people who deny the Creator say that it came into existence on its own or that 'Nature' produced it!

The Neem tree is undoubtedly a much greater product than any man-made insecticide. Extraordinary intelligence is very clearly present in its very structure. How strange are those people who accept a factory-made insecticide as a product of intelligence but do not accept the same for the Neem tree!

Intelligence in the Creation

Once, I read an article about honeybees. In it, among other things, it mentioned that some 550 busy bees have to dip their snouts into as many as 2.5 million flowers to make just one pound of honey.

There are innumerable signs inside the humble honeybee. The above point is just one among them. If man reflects on these signs, he can be overwhelmed with awareness of the greatness of God.

What does the honeybee do? It sucks the nectar of flowers and prepares honey. However, that is not the only work it does. Along with this, it performs several other important tasks. One of these is the fertilization of plants, causing male and female pollen grains to drop on each other so that they can fertilize. This task is so important that it can be said that honey is the fee paid by plants for the fertilizing service of honeybees.

Research reveals that when the honeybee is sucking the nectar of a flower in a garden, it does not suck the nectar of all sorts of flowers simultaneously. Rather, what it does is that it repeatedly sips the nectar of just one sort of flower. At one time, it flies amidst flowers of the same species and sips nectar only from these flowers, one after another.

This practice of the honeybee is very significant for agriculture. Because of this, the pollen grains from a particular sort of flower keep being conveyed to other flowers in

plants or trees of the same species. While sipping nectar from a flower, pollen grains of the flower get stuck on the honeybee's body. When it travels to another flower of the same sort and sits on it, some grains fall inside it. In this way, the process of fertilization occurs. Had this not happened, around 100,000 sorts of plants might have been wiped off the face of the Earth.

This is very clear evidence of intelligent design in the system of creation. This meaningful phenomenon proves that there is indeed a Creator of this world. Had there been no Creator, such meaningfulness, order and design in the creation system would simply not be possible.

Lesson From a Black Box

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According to the rules for aircraft, it is compulsory to have a black box for a plane that weighs more than 12,000 pounds. A black box consists of two small special sorts of recorders, one called a 'flight recorder' and the other a 'voice recorder'. These recorders are placed in the tail of a plane so that they might remain safe in the event of an accident. They continuously record the pilot's voice, the craft's speed and other necessary information. If an accident occurs, vital information related to the plane's last moments can be recovered from its black box.

Several years ago, a big plane was flying over the Atlantic Ocean. Ground-control was taking a report of the plane at every moment. However, suddenly, the picture of the plane vanished from their computer screen. Messages from the plane stopped coming in. The plane had had an accident and crashed into the sea. There were more than 300 people on board, and all of them died. None of them survived to relate details of that accident to the world.

The only means to know about the accident was the plane's black box that had sunk in the vast Atlantic Ocean at some two miles. Compared to the ocean, the plane's black box was not even the size of a speck. On its face, extricating that 'speck' from the ocean was impossible. However, this 'impossible' became possible, and the black box was recovered.

How did this extraordinary miracle happen? It happened through a remote-controlled robot. A black box contains machines through which it keeps sending out radio signals. These signals are emitted from it every second and continue for several days. First, ships from France, the USA, and the UK, equipped with modern equipment, were located where they were coming from these signals. After this, through a special camera, photographs were taken. Then, a robot was sent into the depths of the ocean. It had arms and hands and fingers like a human being. These robots are controlled through radio waves, so humans can watch the entire scene on a mechanical screen while sitting above the sea. They can guide the robot through radio waves to reach the exact

location, pick up the black box in its 'hands', and then come up and hand it over to them.

It was the method using which a small 'speck' was taken out from the depths of the ocean, after which it narrated the entire story of the accident to the world, as it were.

When I read these details in the media, I felt as if in the form of this event, a demonstration of that **azeemtar waqia/most momentous** event was being made that is narrated in these words in the Quran (10:61):

Not the smallest particle on the earth or in heaven is hidden from your Lord, and there is nothing smaller or bigger but is recorded in a clear Book.

The Earth: Amazing Blessing From God

In 1977, the USSR sent its orbital space station Salyut 6 into space. In February 1979, two Soviet astronauts, Vladimir Lyakhov and Valery Ryumin were sent there, where they had to spend almost half a year in space. They had been in orbit in the space laboratory for 171 days and made an 83-minute excursion to dismantle equipment in preparation for their return to Earth. The men re-entered the space laboratory in good shape to the televised applause of Soviet ground control. However, the Communist Party newspaper *Pravda* reported that the men were growing homesick as they prepared to return and that their conversation had turned more and more to their homes and families. One astronaut was quoted as saying:

What are we dreaming about? We want very much just to put our feet on the ground again.

These two Russian cosmonauts returned to Earth after spending approximately six months travelling in space. After living around half a year in a state of weightlessness, they were dazed and awe-stricken. Due to fear and bewilderment, they could get very little sleep in space.

How God has made the Earth and put together favourable conditions here for human beings is a great blessing. There is no other place conducive to a creature like a man living in the known universe. Man can get an estimate of this great blessing from God at the time when he is deprived of Earth, like the above-mentioned Soviet astronauts were, just as when after remaining hungry for a long time, a person can realize the value of food.

Evidence From Science

The Internet is a global treasure-trove of information. It can be called an 'electronic encyclopedia'. If you go to the Internet and type in the following words: 'Thought-Controlled Wheelchair', a page will open up on the screen, which will inform you that there is a wheelchair that can be controlled simply through the mind; without any

external instrument! A person sitting in this electric wheelchair can, without using even his hands and only through his mind, get the wheelchair to move as he wishes.

It is an invention of Japan's well-known Toyota company, which demonstrated this technology in front of the public. As a result, a person can steer the wheelchair through a simple thought, using a helmet-like device that measures their brain waves. Toyota stated that they had developed a way of steering the wheelchair by just detecting brain waves without the person having to move a muscle.

This phenomenon can help us understand how God controls the universe according to His will. The successful demonstration of a thought-controlled wheelchair is empirical evidence of God's thought-controlled universe. The scientific invention makes it understandable that a superior, Divine Mind has the universe completely under control.

The fallacy of Mechanical Interpretation

A computer is an electronic machine whose work is to obtain data from input devices and, in line with the instructions given, analyze and process this data and express the result in output. It is used for a wide variety of purposes. Observing the amazing functioning of a computer, many people believed that science had now arrived at the position where it could manufacture a 'mechanical mind'.

It might have reflected the hope or expectation that something—an intelligent mind possessed by man—that so far was being made only in the 'factory' of Nature might now begin to be also manufactured in factories made by man. It also had a philosophical aspect: If it were possible for a man to manufacture a 'mechanical mind', atheists could use this to back their case, arguing that if human beings in a factory could produce a creature with a mind like a man, there was no need whatsoever to accept the existence of a creator God to account for the existence of an intelligent creature like a man. They could have also argued that just as a man-made 'mechanical mind' could perform various tasks with great accuracy, the giant 'factory' of the universe could function entirely on its own, with no God behind and beyond it.

However, scientific research and experience proved this wishful thinking utterly baseless. This experience about machine intelligence led to great despair among people who were hoping that man could be proven to be a sort of evolved mechanical animal so that there would remain no need to accept God's existence.

The fact is that just as a 'mechanical mind' like computers necessarily demands the existence of the superior mind of a human being to account for its existence and functioning, man's existence and functioning are possible only because of the existence of a Divine Mind, which is far superior to man's mind.

Without a living human being, a computer with a ‘mechanical mind’ cannot come into being. In the same way, without the Creator God, a living human is simply impossible.

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In 1983, the US navy engaged in military exercises near the San Francisco area. This process was conducted through computers. As part of these naval exercises, a naval canon was meant to be used, but there was some computer-related problem. As a result, the cannon balls were shot in the opposite direction. The plan was for the cannon balls to fall off far in the sea, but due to the computer problem, the balls began falling in the reverse direction and fell near a cargo ship.

In computers, such mistakes do keep happening. Why is this so? It is because a computer is just a physical machine made of matter. It does not possess the intelligence of its own. From this, it can be assumed that it could never function accurately without the universe being a mere physical machine with no God controlling it (as many atheists might say). As a result, it might have made grave blunders, causing massive destruction on Earth and the rest of the universe. However, that nothing of the sort happens is a clear indication that this universe is created by a Supreme Mind that has designed it to function with perfect accuracy beyond anything that man-made machines are capable of.

“There is no God of the universe. A universe is only a machine made of matter”: If this sentence appears to be correct from the grammatical point of view, it is completely erroneous from the point of view of reality. The sentence would have been correct had machines—even just the smallest and simplest of them—been able to come into being on their own, without a maker and if they could operate entirely independently. However, all the machines we are familiar with have been made by humans and operated by humans.

If it is the case, how could it at all be possible, as many atheists argue, for the amazingly vast universe to come into being on its own and function on its own, continuously, over billions of years, with complete accuracy?

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To make and operate a machine, a human being is required. No matter how sophisticated, a machine cannot come into being and function without human intervention, at some level or the other. It negates the mechanical interpretation of the universe—the argument that a universe is a machine that has come into being on its own and is functioning independently, without a Creator and Master behind it.

If a human being is needed (because it cannot come into being or function on its own), why is it said that the ‘great machine’ of the universe came into being on its own and is

running on its own? There is no basis whatsoever for this speculation. If the universe is, as some hypothetical scientist might say, simply a 'great machine', even then, in order for it to come into being and to function, a great Mind is required. Reason and logic compel a man to accept God—whether in religious language as Creator, Lord and Master or scientific terms as 'The Grand Engineer' running this 'world-machine'.

Lesson From A Train Journey

Once—this was many years ago—I travelled somewhere by train. When I woke up in the morning, our train was racing through the countryside. There was greenery around. The morning sun had risen and was lighting up the sky.

For such a world to come into existence is the most wondrous thing among all wonders—a world where there is abundant greenery, where the sun is delivering light and heat in specific proportions, where uncountable causes come together that make it possible for a train to be manufactured and then for it to race at high speed on the surface of the Earth.

The Maker has made this world in a truly amazing manner. Here, innumerable phenomena are visible, but the One who has brought them is not visible. Here, the sights of creation are spread out all around, but our physical eyes cannot see the Creator amidst them. This situation has made many people question and even deny the existence of God. They argue, "When we do not see God, how can we accept Him?" However, this argument has no solid basis at all.

The train I was travelling was racing at the speed of perhaps over 100 kilometres an hour. I was sitting inside it and heading towards my destination. I had not seen the train driver; I did not even know his name. However, I could be certain that the train did have a driver and that he was driving it.

Why do we have this sort of certainty about the driver of a train whom we have not seen? Deniers of God would say that this is because although we have not seen the train driver, we can see him if we want to. For us, it is possible to get off at a station on the way where the train might halt for a while, walk up to the train engine and see the driver there. However, this argument does not hold.

If we get off at a station and go to the engine and see the driver of the train there, then what will we see? We will see only a human body with hands and feet. However, is it this visible body that is driving the train? Certainly not! The one driving the train is a mind, which is not visible to us, and not an external human body that we can see with our eyes. Thus, the driver's body will remain fully intact after death, but it cannot drive a train. So, it can be said that we accept there to be a driver of the train without having seen the driver in the real sense.

We are ready to believe that there is indeed a driver of a train without seeing him in the real sense. The same logic should apply to the existence of God, too.

Deniers of God say that this world came into being and has no inventor and creator. However, for this vast universe, which is so meaningful, coming into being through mere chance is not possible. It would be much more unlikely an occurrence than an entire train coming into existence from an explosion that happened by chance in a rubbish dump!

Flawless System of God's Universe

In June 1988, an Iran Air passenger plane took off from Tehran. It was passing over the Persian Gulf towards Dubai when an American military ship (*USS Vincennes*) shot it down and caused it to crash, causing the death of its 290 passengers and its crew.

It was undoubtedly a terrible deed. Why do such things occur? A US naval officer explained the event due to a computer error. Their computer mistook the passenger plane for a military plane, which is why they attacked it.

That American naval ship probably had the most modern sort of radars and computers available. This system could survey planes flying in the sky and specify on the radar screen whose planes they were: if they belonged to 'friends' or 'foes'.

When the Iran Air plane was flying in the heights of the sky, the ship's computer, surveying the craft, recorded it on the radar screen as an F-14 jet fighter instead of what it was—an Airbus A 300 passenger plane. As a result, it was mistaken for an inimical military plane. Immediately after that, an officer on the ship pressed a button, and two missiles flew out, dispatching the plane and everyone on board to their deaths.

Modern atheists say that a universe is a machine. If the universe is indeed just a machine, why don't such sort of mechanical blunders occur in it? Why has such a vast universe, which contains billions of galaxies and thousands of stars, been continuously functioning flawlessly for billions of years? The only reasonable explanation is that the universe is being managed by the Lord of the universe, who can never make any flaw.

Remote Control: A Spiritual Insight

One of the many terms that the modern age has added to the dictionary is 'remote-control'. This term denotes controlling something from a distance without any direct physical contact.

These days, remote-control technology is widely used for a variety of purposes. Signals are sent out in the form of codes. In the concerned machine, a receiver obtains these signals at an appropriate frequency, and then it begins to function in the desired way. Remote-control technology has advanced so much that commands are now sent from Earth through remote control to man-made satellites orbiting in space. If any defect or

dysfunction occurs in them, they can be repaired from Earth itself without any direct physical contact and simply through radio waves.

Remote-control technology is a physical manifestation of meaningful reality. It can help us understand how God, whom we cannot see with our physical eyes, controls the vast universe *bila wasta*/without any intermediary/directly (P. 228, LAST PARA) and is running it according to His **mansha/will/intention**.

Although a remote-controlled radio is a human phenomenon, it has made a grand Divine phenomenon—of God’s control of the universe—more understandable for us.

GOD: VOICE OF HUMAN NATURE

Concept of a Supreme Being

In a research study, a report published in the New Delhi edition of the *Times of India* (8 September 2009), it was stated that human beings are born believers. A study of human psychology reveals that the concept of a Supreme Being is present inside human nature itself as a natural phenomenon. The concept is so powerful that no ‘training’ can eliminate it. This fact is expressed in the words of a scholar thus: “Belief in God is hardwired in our brain”.

However, in the research mentioned above, this special feature of human beings was wrongly linked to the theory of evolution. Instead, it was claimed that human beings are programmed by evolution to believe in God as it gives them a better chance of survival.

It is a completely illogical argument. What has been proved by the research is that belief in the supernatural is present in man by birth itself. No human being is devoid of this. However, the claim that this belief appeared in man on its own, through some hypothetical evolution, is completely unproven.

Research findings in various fields point to the fact that man is born with the belief in a Supreme Being by birth. This phenomenon makes man religious in some respect or the other, so much so that even among that thought of as atheists, this concept is present in some corner or the other of their minds.

Voice of Nature

God is the voice of human nature. In normal circumstances, this voice remains hidden. However, when some sensitive or delicate moment arrives in a person’s life, it is often awakened. There are innumerable examples in history from which it is clear that no person is devoid of this aspect.

Gina Lollobrigida (b. 1927) is an Italian film star. In 1975, she came to India. In response to whether she believed in God at a press conference, she said, “I believe in God, I believe in God, more when I am on an aeroplane.”

When a person travels in an aeroplane, they are completely at the mercy of external factors. If there is even a minor fluctuation in the balance of these factors, it might be enough to lead to their death. The same **charge/helplessness** man faces while on a sea voyage. The Quran (31:31-32) says:

Have you not seen how the ships sail on the sea by God's grace so that He may show you some of His signs? Surely therein are signs for every steadfast, thankful person. When the waves engulf them like shadows [of death], they call to God, sincere [at that moment] in their faith in Him alone: but as soon as He has brought them safely ashore, only some take the right course. Moreover, none denies Our signs save the perfidious and ungrateful person.

No matter how haughty and insolent a person who denies God may be, he uncontrollably cries out to God when facing difficult conditions. It is proof that God is the voice of human nature.

In 1917, a Communist Revolution occurred in Russia. Then, in 1991, after almost 75 years, the Communist regime collapsed. The Communist government flooded Russia's media and schools with anti-religious propaganda during this period. According to communist ideology, religion reflects 'false consciousness' and is an appendix of the capitalist system. Following the abolition of the capitalist system in Russia, its 'appendix' should have come to an end if the communist ideology were indeed true. Instead, the Soviet government claimed that it had eliminated religion from the USSR. However, astonishingly, religion remained alive there, and now among the new generations, there is a revival of religion.

Joseph Stalin

The Soviet dictator Joseph Stalin (1879-1964) was a denier of God. However, at least one recorded event in his life might suggest that he would sometimes remember God in difficult circumstances.

In 1942, during the Second World War, British Prime Minister Winston Churchill (1874-1965) visited Moscow to discuss with Soviet leaders about forming a Second Front against Hitler. Churchill laid out before Stalin a military plan for the Allied forces. Because he was himself scared of Hitler's growing **yalgaar/power**, Stalin took great interest in this plan.

Churchill writes that Stalin's interest in it had greatly increased at a particular stage in detailing this plan and uttered these words: "May God prosper this undertaking".

Stalin's Daughter

Stalin's daughter Svetlana Alliluyeva was born in 1926. Despairing the communist world, in 1966, she came to India and then went to Europe and died there in 2011.

This daughter of an atheist dictator later accepted Christianity. She was dissatisfied in Moscow and was searching for solace. That thing, according to her, she found in these words of the Bible:

The LORD is my light and my salvation—
Whom shall I fear?

The LORD is the stronghold of my life—
Of whom shall I be afraid?

When the wicked advance against me
to devour me,

it is my enemies and my foes
Who will stumble and fall?

Though an army besiege me,
my heart will not fear;

though war break out against me,
Even then, I will be confident.

(Psalm 27:1-3)

Michael Gorbachev

In 1990, in the last years of the Communist regime in the USSR, I visited Russia. At that time, an era of freedom had begun. Religious activities were happening in churches and mosques that had earlier become desolate. I told my guide that we had heard that in Russia, religion had died, but here it seemed to be alive. My guide replied that religion was always alive there. The difference was that religion was underground earlier, and now it had come to the fore.

The fact is that the concept of God is embedded in human nature itself. If a person denies God with his tongue, awareness of God remains deep inside his heart. The former President of the USSR, Michael Gorbachev (b. 1931), was once an atheist communist, but then his suppressed innate human nature awoke. He acknowledged this. According to a 2008 newspaper report:

Gorbachev, who had earlier publicly pronounced himself as an atheist, acknowledged his Christian faith while paying a surprise visit to pray at the tomb of St. Francis of Assisi in Italy.

Awareness of God is embedded in man's nature so that it can be separated from him under no circumstances. In this regard, those who deny God are not an exception. Evidence has been found vast following the collapse of the USSR and several other parts of the world that were once ruled by atheistic communist regimes.

Bertrand Russell

British philosopher Bertrand Russell was regarded as a staunch atheist. However, his autobiography reveals that no matter how hardened an atheist a person may become, he cannot free himself from his innate nature.

In 1952, Russell went to Greece for the first time. Referring to this journey, he writes that whatever he saw was of great interest to him. However, with one aspect, he says, he was a little surprised. He went to a church, and he reflects on this as follows:

To my astonishment, I felt more at home in this little church than I did in the Parthenon or in any of the other Greek buildings of Pagan times. I realised then that the Christian outlook had a firmer hold upon me than I had imagined. The hold was not upon my belief but my feelings.

These are the words of a person who authored a book titled *Why I Am Not A Christian*. The fact is that these words Russell are a call of his innate nature. Awareness of God is deeply embedded inside every person's nature from beforehand itself. Even if a person wants to, they cannot remove it from themselves. It is why 'big' atheists and deniers of God remain dissatisfied internally with their denial of God, and in particularly challenging times, they race towards that very same thing that they had earlier been denying.

God's Signs

James Clerk Maxwell (1831-1879) was that person who put the laws of electromagnetic interactions into equations so marvellous that when the noted German physicist Boltzmann saw them, he exclaimed, "Who was the God who wrote these signs?"

The universe is a highly organized phenomenon and not some random heap of objects. This fact compels one who knows this to accept that a supreme mind is functioning behind events in the universe.

Einstein was a man with a purely scientific mind. Still, he said, "I am more of a philosopher than a physicist, for I believe there is a reality outside of us." Because of his mindset, Einstein remarked, "In this sense, I belong to the ranks of devoutly religious men."

The universe is a sign of God. **Voh makhlooq ka roop mai Khaliq ki tasveer dikhata hai./In the form of the creation reflects the Creator.** The person who observes the universe with an open mind will find God inside it. However, those whose minds there is crookedness will live in darkness even while being in the light. **Even while standing close to God, they will not find Him/ voh Khuda ke qareeb khade hokar bhi Khuda ko na payenge.**

Search for Reality

In the early 17th century, with his simple telescope, the Italian scientist Galileo could see only the front face of the moon. Today, with the help of telescopic cameras installed in spaceships, man can see the reverse side of the moon, too.

It is a simple example of how much difference has arisen between 'yesterday' and 'today' in intellectual terms. However, in material terms, the price for arriving at the knowledge we now have of the known universe has been very high. Huge sums of money have been spent in different countries to explore the mysteries of the universe, such as on research, observatories and space missions.

In astronomy, research results often come out after many years of effort. However, because of the large sums of money on what may appear to some to be a useless cause, many people criticize research plans that seek to enable us to know more about the universe. Answering them, Nobel Prize winner Roger Penrose (b. 1931) asks:

Do economists not share the thrill that accompanies each new piece of understanding with us? Do they not care to know where we have come from, how we are constituted, or why we are here? Do they not have a drive to understand, quite independent of economic gain? Do they not appreciate the beauty in ideas?

Penrose adds:

A civilization that stopped inquiring about the universe might stop inquiring about other things. A lot else might then die besides particle physics.

From these words, we can gauge how important and necessary the issue of understanding the reality of life is. Even someone who does not want to interpret the universe based on God is restless to find something else based on which he can try to explain and make sense of his self, his existence and the universe. For the visible universe and, inside it, a creature like a man to exist is so amazing that man cannot remain without wondering about its essence or reality. Not even 'big' material successes can make him indifferent to such a question.

Man sees that he is located in what is possibly an almost limitless universe. In this universe, there are billions of galaxies. In each galaxy, there are billions of huge stars. Each star is located very far from the others, like a few little boats bobbing about in a vast ocean. The number of stars spread across the vast universe is so great that if each star were to be given a name and someone started to narrate their names, it would require around 30 trillion years!

In this inconceivably vast universe, man is an insignificant creature in terms of his size. However, this same man is measuring distances in the universe despite this insignificance. He is studying various aspects of the universe, from physical particles to

galaxies. He possesses a mind that can conceive both the past and the future. How is all this happening, and what will be the outcome of this immensely strange drama? These questions whirl around in every thinking person's mind. He wants to arrive at their reality. However, it is man's misfortune that he is searching for their answers in telescopic observations and laboratory experiments, although the answers to these questions are not present anywhere other than in the revelations that have been given to God's Messengers.

In a universe where there are so many stars that to take their names requires a period of more than 30 trillion years, how can man understand its reality—this man who lives for a mere 50 or 60 years or so and then dies? The fact is that the Creator alone can unravel the secret of the reality of the universe—and He has done so through His Messengers.

Return to Religion

The cover story of the 8 April 1966 issue of the American TIME magazine was titled *Is God Dead?* It was more than half a century ago. However, today, in the Western world itself, such books and articles are being published continuously whose titles are just the opposite sort, indicating a growing interest in and return to religion. People are increasingly turning back to religion because man's 'secular gods' have failed. This return to religion is a return to man's innate nature—a return to the awareness of the God embedded in human nature—and not simply a return to some religious concepts of inherited religious traditions.

After a brief period in the USA and several other western countries, religion is again coming alive. Religious Studies classes in colleges that were once empty are now full. There has been an extraordinary increase in the number of readers of religious literature. Conferences on religion are now being held in large numbers. There is an amazing increase in interest in religion in many circles.

In an article by Fran Schumer titled 'A Return to Religion' published in the *Span* magazine (December 1984), Harvey R. Cox, Professor of Divinity at the Harvard Divinity School, referred to a tremendous resurgence of religious interest. Cox's bestselling 1965 book, *The Secular City*, suggested that people had lost interest in the sacred. Later, a book that he wrote, *Religion in the Secular City*, described the revival of religious concern.

The article argued that a century that saw the Gulag, the Holocaust, Hiroshima and the spread of nuclear arms had caused some who used to champion rationalism and science to humble themselves. Since their 'secular gods' had failed, it argued, they were beginning to view 'more traditional gods' with 'a new curiosity'. The article quoted Robert N. Bellah, Ford Professor of Sociology and Comparative Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, as saying, "There is a reaction against extreme individualism

and self, a preoccupation with and a search for roots with a capital R, which takes people back to religion”.

The article is related that it would have been hard to imagine a similar revival 20 years earlier. A few years before, it was claimed that ‘God is dead’. However, things had changed. The article stated, “God is not pronounced dead easily. Science and religion are not necessarily incompatible, and logical attempts to disprove God’s existence are viewed as somewhat arcane”. “All of this would have surprised our intellectual predecessors”, the article commented.

The article quoted Alan Dershowitz (then aged around 45 years), a professor of law at Harvard Law School, as saying that it was ironic that his generation should be the one coming back to religion; it has been a generation that “had all the freedom and all the choice.” However, the rootlessness of much of that freedom brought so many intellectuals back to religion.

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This state of affairs has emerged among all peoples. Presently, among Muslims, to there is once again a **new turn towards religion/ruju**. However, this **ruju/return** is related not to any **ahd saz mufakkir/ so-called ‘epoch-building thinker’** or **Khuda raseeda buzurg/‘saint’ with a ‘special connection’ with God**. It is entirely a **zamani mazhar. (P. 243, LAST PARA)** It is for this reason that this happens uniformly in every community. It can be observed in the case of all religious communities. In this regard, there is no difference between them at all.

The cause of this new situation is the **mayusi/hopelessness/despair** of ‘modern’ man that has emerged in recent decades. The 20th century was a century of rationalism and science. ‘Modern’ man came to believe that through his reason and his science, he could obtain everything that people earlier used to hope they could obtain through religion. However, ‘modern’ man’s hopes were not fulfilled. His rationalism only took him to uncertainty, and his science turned into the black clouds of atomic war that began circling his head. Because people’s ‘secular gods’ had failed, they began to look towards the ‘traditional’ religious concepts with more attention.

In this way, the present scenario has opened for us a new possibility. It has presented us with a new and favourable field for reaching out to people with the message of self-surrender to the One God. It was the message that was taught by all the prophets of God. It is the message of the Quran, which has been preserved intact, free from any alteration.

Seeing the present conditions of the world, it seems as if God has drawn people to the doors of His mercy. The fact is that guidance for man has come from Heaven. Our task now is to convey the truth to the seekers of Truth.

The desire for a Deity

Andrian Nikolayev (1929-2004) was a Russian cosmonaut. In 1962, he travelled into space for the first time. After his return from this trip, in August 1962, he participated in a press conference in Moscow. Narrating his experiences in space, he said that when he landed on Earth, he wanted to kiss it.

For a creature like a man, many things and conditions conducive to human life have been made possible on Earth without any effort on man's part. As we know, such things and conditions are not present anywhere else in the vast universe. When the above-mentioned Russian astronaut went from Earth into space, he found that there, **for man, there is only amazement and bewilderment. There is no samaan for man's peace and hajatbarari/There is nothing there that can give him peace and fulfil his needs (P. 247, PARA 2, LINE 3)** After experiencing this, when he landed on Earth, he realized the value of the Earth, just as on experiencing intense thirst, a person realizes the value of water. He felt the Earth, along with all the conditions so favourable to a man that it contains, to be so wonderful that he wanted to offer it his intense love.

In the Islamic Shariah, it is called **ilah banana/ 'making a deity'**. Man does not see God with his eyes, and so he makes a creature thing or being his **ilah/deity**. A **momin/true devotee of God** is one whom **zahir se guzar kar batin tak pahunch jai/passes by the external and arrives at the inner reality**, who realizes the fact that all that is visible is a gift from Someone, that some Supreme Being has created all that is on Earth. Seeing the creatures, he finds their Creator and makes Him his all. He offers all his best feelings for God.

The very same inner state that the Russian astronaut experienced on getting back to the Earth, but with greater intensity, a person should experience finding God. A true devotee of God is one who, on seeing the sun, finds in its light the light of God, who begins to **witness/mushahida** God's limitlessness in the vastness of the sky, who discerns God's fragrance in the perfume of flowers, who sees God's **bakhsish/ blessings** in the **ravani/flow** of water. The difference between a true devotee of God and somebody else is that the latter's vision is entangled in the created world while the former, **passing by the created realm/makhlukat se guzar kar, reaches/arrives at** the Creator. **A non-devotee, thinking the beauty of created beings and things to be their intrinsic beauty, gets mahu/immersed/entangled in them alone. [P. 248, PARA 1]** On the other hand, the devotee sees the Creator's wonders in the beauty of created things and prostrates before the Creator. The non-devotee prostrates before created things, while the devotee prostrates to the Creator.

Experiencing the Presence of God

Col. James Irwin (1930-1991) was one of three American astronauts who went into space onboard Apollo 15. In an interview, he spoke about the moment in August 1972

when he stepped on the moon's surface. It was a very strange experience for him. He felt God's presence there. He felt as if God was very near. He said that he could see God's greatness with his own eyes and remarked that the journey to the moon was for him, not just a scientific journey: through it, he had received spiritual life. According to him, his experiences in space had made God more real to him than before.

This experience of Col. Irwin's was not unique. The fact is that everything that God has created is so amazing that, on seeing it, one can be overwhelmed by the wonders of God. In the perfectness of the creation, the Creator's face is **being reflected/jhalak raha hai** at every moment, but we have got so habituated to the world around us, having seen it from childhood itself, that we do not realise its wondrousness. Air and water, trees and birds, and innumerable other things are all miraculous in our world. Everything is a mirror of the Creator. Because we have become so used to them, we cannot realise how amazing they are. However, when a person suddenly landed on the moon and saw, for the very first time, the scene that was spread out before him, he could not but feel the presence of the Creator. **Usne takhleeq ke karnama mai uske Khaliq ko maujud paya./In the wonders of the creation that he witnessed before him, he found the Creator's presence. (p.249, lines 1-2)**

On Earth, where we live, the experience of 'the presence of God' can happen in the same way Colonel Irwin experienced on arriving on the moon. However, people do not see the world around them with that same sense of wonder with which a new traveller to the moon sees the moon. If we begin to see our world with this same sort of vision, we will experience God's presence at every moment. We will begin to live in such a way as if we are living in the neighbourhood of God, feeling that God is at every moment present before our very eyes.

If we see a high-quality machine for the first time, we notice therein the presence, as it were, of the engineer who designed it. In the same way, if we deeply ponder on things in this world, at that very moment, we can find God's presence there. Every creation in the universe bears witness to the existence of God.

In the present world, man's greatest discovery is to begin seeing God and feel God's presence near him. If a person's awareness is alive, he will see God's light shining in the sun's golden rays. **He will find God being reflected in the beautiful sight of lush green trees. (P. 249, LAST PARA)** In the gentle breeze, he will experience a Divine touch. While placing his palms and his forehead on the ground in prostration, he will feel as if he has placed his entire being at the feet of His Lord. **Khuda apni qudrat aur rehmat ke sath har jagah mauhud hai/ God is present, with His power and His mercy, everywhere/God is omnipresent in the form of mercy and power everywhere. (P. 249, LAST PARA)—basharte ki dekhne wali nigah admi ko hasil ho jai/all one needs is/the only condition is to develop the vision to 'see' Him.**

From Denial to Acknowledgment

Nalin Chandra Wickramasinghe (b. 1939) is a Sri Lankan-born British mathematician, astronomer and astrobiologist. He was a Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, from 1963 to 1973 until he became an applied mathematics and astronomy professor at University College Cardiff. Later, he moved to the University of Buckingham as Director of the Buckingham Centre for Astrobiology. In 2015, he was elected Visiting scholar at Churchill College, Cambridge, England. He spent many years working on the issue of the origin of life on Earth with noted British astronomer Sir Fred Hoyle (who served as the Director of the Institute of Astronomy at Cambridge and was President of the Royal Astronomical Society). The duo, regarded as among Britain's most eminent scientists, published their research findings in a jointly-authored book titled *Evolution From Space* (1981).

According to an article published in The Hindustan Times (September 6, 1981), when Hoyle, an agnostic of Christian background, and Wickramasinghe, an atheist Buddhist, began researching the origin of life, they believed that the notion of a Creator was inconsistent with science. However, then something quite remarkable happened. "Today", the article explained, they are "changed, men. They believe."

The calculations they each did independently into the mathematical chances of life starting spontaneously convinced the two scholars. Each found that the odds against the spark of life igniting accidentally on Earth were staggering—in mathematical jargon, '10 to the power of 40,000' (that is, 1, followed by 40,000 zeroes). "That number is so imponderable in the universe that I am 100 per cent certain that life could not have started spontaneously on Earth," Wickramasinghe stated.

"It is quite a shock," the article quoted Wickramasinghe. "From my earliest training as a scientist, I was very strongly brainwashed to believe that science cannot be consistent with deliberate creation. That notion has had to be very painfully shed. I am quite uncomfortable in the situation, the state of mind I now find myself in. However, there is no logical way out of it."

The two scholars did calculations based on the size and age of the universe and found that the odds against life beginning spontaneously anywhere in space were '10 to the power of 30.'

According to the article, Wickramasinghe remarked that Hoyle was tending much more than he was towards the higher intelligent Creator. Wickramasinghe used to argue against it, but he lost every argument. "At the moment, I cannot find any rational argument to knock down the view which argues for conversion to God," Wickramasinghe explained, adding that "the only logical answer to life is the creation and not accidental random shuffling."

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In the last few centuries, it came to be thought that faith in God was a mere personal belief and had no relation to an intellectual way of thinking. However, in recent decades, such scientific evidence is continuously emerging that testifies that conviction in God's existence is rational and that it is not some belief without any scientific basis.

However, scientific research is taking man only to that abstract reality that God exists, that God is. Beyond that, there is the question of God's relationship with a man when God exists. Scientists do not give any information about this, nor can they. It is that position where the frontier of religion begins. In principle, all religious traditions are a common answer to this question. However, various religious traditions have not remained protected in their original form. Some claim the existence of several gods, even though all fields of knowledge prove that if God does exist, He must be just one and that it is not possible for there to be several gods. There are beliefs that the human conscience can never accept in certain traditions—for instance, discrimination between human beings based on skin colour and ethnicity and other such things.

Scientific realities lead man to God, and after accepting God, the only correct choice is accepting the protected path of willing self-surrender to the One God taught by all the many prophets of God. When the scholarly study reveals that this world has a God, godless traditions are automatically proven false. When research on the universe reveals that its entire system is functioning according to unity, then traditions that posit the existence of several gods are shown to be meaningless. In such a situation, the right course for man is to turn to the path of willing self-surrender to the One God. This path, which is described in the Quran, is not only based on the correct conception of God but also very clearly tells us what sort of relationship there should be between a man and God.

Call of Nature

Yakov Zeldovich (1914-1987) was a famous Russian scientist. When the USSR was still in existence, an article he wrote appeared in a magazine published in Moscow called *Sputnik* (August 1987). It was titled 'Truth, Progress and the Human Soul'.

In this article, Mr Zeldovich acknowledged that he was an atheist. He did not believe in God and religion. However, he said that in human societies, the presence of religion was a proven historical reality. Further, he noted that spiritual needs are deeply entrenched in human consciousness.

This aspect of human nature is so clear and definite that all serious people have acknowledged it. From the most ancient times till today, all human beings have been taking birth with the awareness of the supernatural deeply embedded in their very nature. People born and socialized in atheistic families and societies cannot empty themselves of this awareness. This demand of human nature is such an accepted and acknowledged reality that it cannot be denied.

Only one question remains after accepting this reality—how to address this innate awareness of the supernatural embedded in human nature. Atheist scientists might say that the answer to this lies in developing a person’s material consciousness. However, this answer is its rebuttal and negation because a matter-based option cannot be the answer to a spiritual question, which relates to man’s innate nature. The fact is that answer to the question is only God. The creature—man—is searching for his Creator, and only after he finds his Creator can the creature get peace. As the Quran (13:28) says: “surely in the remembrance of God's hearts can find comfort.”

Darwin’s Acknowledgment

Charles Darwin presented a theory that man is a more advanced species that has emerged from other animals. It is extremely absurd and baseless because man is extraordinarily different from animals. However nevertheless, it is the case; how could it be that an amoeba’s mind kept on progressing till it finally transmogrified into a human mind? It is so implausible that Darwin himself was thrown into **hairani/bewilderment** through his theory. In his diary in April 1881, he wrote:

[C] a mind of man, which has, as I fully believe, been developed from a mind as low as that possessed by the lowest animal, be trusted when it draws such a grand conclusion? [...]

I cannot pretend to throw the least light on such abstruse problems. The mystery of the beginning of all things is insoluble to us, and I must be content to remain an Agnostic.

The fact is that explaining life and the universe is an inconceivably big issue, and no human being, with his limited lifespan and limited abilities, is capable of doing this. Because of this, anyone who attempted to perform this task always fell victim to a feeling of utter helplessness, irrespective of whether or not he openly acknowledged it. This phenomenon shows that a mind vastly superior to the human mind is required to explain the reality of life and the universe. God alone can do this work. Moreover, God has done this through His Messengers. This evidence proves the necessity of prophetic guidance.

Search for the Supreme Being

In life, every person is repeatedly faced with such occasions when he experiences helplessness. He feels that he is a powerless being. This feeling leads him to search for some being who is superior to him and who can make up for his limitations. When some highly educated people in the West, for whom all doors of material opportunity are open, take the support of metaphysical beliefs in search of peace of mind, this is not some crazy aberration. On the contrary, it reflects a deep inner quest, although often, on account of not finding the right answer to this search, they get entangled in various superstitious beliefs and practices.

The only right destination for such a quest is the One Creator God.

Search for Extraterrestrial Life

Recent decades have witnessed the emergence of unique field research: 'Listening for life in space. Behind this quest is the idea that there might be similar living beings in other locations in the vast universe as are found on Earth. For some people, a major reason for space travel is to meet with such supposed life-forms hopefully. They have such faith in this hypothesis that they have given it a special name—'extraterrestrial life'.

Big antennas have been set up in parts of America and some other 'developed' Western countries, called 'radio ears'. Through these machines, signals are sent into **balai khala/space**, and sensitive instruments are ready to listen to any signals from above.

The existence of life and consciousness on Earth is an extremely exceptional phenomenon in the universe. Because this life and consciousness have not brought themselves into being, their existence necessarily demands that there be a source for them—which can only be God. The fact is that man's existence is evidence of God's existence.

Strangely, people are ready to believe in the possible existence of 'extraterrestrial life' on some hypothetical planet but decline to believe in the extra-human Source of all life, including human life, on Earth—the One Creator God.

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Stephen Hawking, an avowed atheist, was a widely-known British scientist. After a detailed study, he stated that there must be some intelligent life beyond the Earth, which he termed 'alien life'. Furthermore, he suggested that extraterrestrials are almost certain to exist. His logic on aliens was very simple: The universe has around 100 billion galaxies, each containing hundreds of millions of stars. Therefore, the earth may be unlikely to be the only planet where life exists in such a big realm. Hawking remarked, "To my mathematical brain, the numbers alone make thinking about aliens perfectly rational."

The first thing that the phenomenon of intelligent beings on Earth proves is that this phenomenon is an exception. Now, what is the explanation for this exception? Atheists like Hawking might deem the hypothesis of evolution to be the basis for explaining the presence of intelligent beings on Earth. However, it is much more appropriate to explain this based on intervention by the Creator because current scientific evidence indicates such intervention in the entire universe. Moreover, when this intervention is accepted, the existence of the Creator, who alone could have done this, gets proven automatically.

In present times, many realities about the universe have been discovered. These are clear pieces of evidence that point to the Creator's existence, but in line with their

worldview, atheistic-minded people declared them to be the result of some hypothetical evolutionary process. It, however, is baseless speculation.

Extraterrestrial Intelligence

In recent times, a separate field of science has come into being called SETI, which stands for 'Search For Extraterrestrial Intelligence'. Perhaps inspired by the Darwinian evolutionary theory, some scientists speculate that there should be intelligent creatures like humans in some other universe locations. The hypothetical evolutionary process desires a generality, there being no room for any exceptions in it, and so perhaps these people think that if that life 'evolved' on its own on Earth, this could not have been an exception and that life might also have 'evolved' on its own in other locations in the universe as well. An American writer, Isaac Asimov (1920-1992), even declared that there were 400 million stars in our galaxy on which plants and animals are found or could be found. However, all of this was mere speculation.

There is much talk in scientific circles of 'extraterrestrial intelligence'. Among the things that scientists are engaged in trying to find out about, one is what is termed 'alien civilizations'. Besides human civilization on Earth, is one or more civilization elsewhere in space, perhaps established by some non-human entities?

Some people speculate that there could be other 'technical civilizations' elsewhere in the universe similar to human civilization on Earth, established by 'aliens'. One reason for this speculation is that some people have claimed to have found indications of extraterrestrial intelligence in the universe. If these are indeed what these people think they are, it ought to have strengthened faith in God, but the mindset of those who deny God is such that it is ready to believe in the existence of some hypothetical extraterrestrial intelligence of unseen 'aliens' but baulks at accepting the existence of God.

Some astronomers have claimed that there are 10 billion stars in our galaxy that, like the solar system, have a planetary system. In their opinion, the existence of life is as possible there as is on Earth, although, so far, not one planet has been discovered where life-forms as on Earth are present. Searches for radio signals or optical flashes from other star systems that might indicate the presence of extraterrestrial intelligence has so far proved fruitless.

The caravan of man's scientific discoveries is travelling ahead with great speed. Science has reached intelligence beyond man or extra-human intelligence. If someday it discovers that this extra-human intelligence is so unique that instead of thinking it to be of some creature somewhat like man, calling it 'God' would be more proper, there would be nothing surprising about it.

THE LIFE THAT WE ARE IN SEARCH OF

The Greatest Tragedy

Perhaps the greatest tragedy of human history is that **man has/many people have** remained deprived of realization of God. It is because the means for realizing God is a reflection on God's creations. However, prior to the modern scientific age, the man knew very little about the creations of God. Thus, in ancient times, this framework to arrive at the realization of God was not **present/available**.

In the modern era, following the scientific revolution, the man obtained a higher framework, whose prior intimation was given in the Quran (41:53) in these words: "We shall show them Our signs in the universe and within themselves until it becomes clear to them that this is the Truth." However, in this same period, when the **afaqi/universal** or scientific framework emerged, the Muslims of the whole world fell victim to negative thinking due to political reaction. In this way, they were deprived of positive thinking.

Because no scientific framework was available for ancient man, it was difficult to arrive at **(should we add the scientific ????)** realization of God. However, despite the emergence of a scientific framework in the modern age, man did not arrive at the realization of God. The reason for this was that modern man was bereft of positive thinking. This was undoubtedly man's greatest loss. A higher-level realization of God is the greatest blessing for every human being. It is possible for every human being to reach this sort of realization. However, this condition is that they must protect themselves completely from negative thinking. Those who fulfil this condition will succeed in arriving at higher levels of God-realization.

It is a tragedy that most people have fallen prey to negative thinking based on one issue or another. As a result, they could not remain established in positive thinking. On account of this, they were not able to realize God.

The Life They Were Searching For

The well-known German thinker and communist ideologue Friedrich Engels (1829-1895) believed that man needs clothing to cover his body and food to fill his stomach, and only after that can he ponder on matters of philosophy and politics. However, the fact is that the first questions to which man wants the answers to are existential questions, such as 'What am I?', 'What is this universe, who made it, and why am I here?' and 'How did my life begin, and where will it end?'. These are basic questions human beings ask, rooted in human nature itself.

Man opens his eyes to a world filled with many different things. The sun sends him light and heat, but he does not know why it is engaged in the service of man. The air blesses him with life, but it is not in man's capacity to take hold of it and ask, "Who are you? Why are you being so kind to me?" He sees his existence, but he does not know what he

is and why he has come into the world. Man's mind is not able to determine the answers to these questions. However, still, man wants to know them. Even though these questions may not take the form of words and be uttered by every person's tongue, they keep man's soul restless and sometimes well up with such intensity that they can even drive a person mad.

The world knows Friedrich Engels as an atheist. However, his atheism was a reaction to his environment that later manifested in his life. His initial years were spent in a religious environment. However, when he grew up, he became dissatisfied with conventional religion. Reflecting this state of his, at the age of nineteen, he wrote in a letter to a friend thus:

I pray every day; I pray that the truth may be given to me almost all day long. I have done this since doubts assailed me, but still, I cannot return to our faith...I write these lines with tears in my eyes, it is hard for me to control my emotion, but I feel that I will not be lost, that I will find God, toward whom I aspire with all my heart.

The natural urge for the search for Reality had welled up in the young Engels. However, he could not satisfy this urge, and he lost himself in political philosophies, becoming dissatisfied with conventional Christianity.

The truth of this urge is that consciousness of the One Creator God is embedded in human nature by birth itself. It is an essential component of man's unconscious. "God is my Creator, and I am His servant"—this is **a/the** silent **ahad/oath** that every human being, from the very first day itself, brings with him and comes into this world. Awareness of the Creator, Lord and Benefactor is unconsciously racing in man's veins. Without conscious awareness of this fact, man experiences a huge vacuum inside himself. From deep inside, his soul demands that he should find the Master whom he has not seen with his eyes, embrace Him and surrender to Him his all.

Khuda ki marifat milna goya is jazbe ki sahih marja ko pa lena hai/ Attaining God-realization is obtaining the right destination for this inner urge. The emotions of people who do not find God are drawn towards this or that thing, away from God.

Every person has a strong desire for someone before whom they can offer their noblest feelings. Every person is compelled to make something or the other the object of their devotion and worship and offer the sacrifice of their emotions to it. Because this urge is a natural one, initially, it always emerges in its natural form. However, circumstances and the evils of the environment, among other factors, turn it in a wrong direction towards something other than God. And then, after some days, man becomes used to a particular lifestyle, so he begins to feel pleasure in it. For instance, the atheist British philosopher Bertrand Russell was a staunchly religious person in his childhood. He used to pray regularly. One day, his grandfather asked him what his favourite prayer was. The

child answered that he was tired of life and was burdened by his sins. At that time, God was Russell's object of devotion. However, when Russell reached the age of 13, he stopped praying, and because of living in an environment that had revolted against religious traditions and traditional values, an attitude of rebellion against them began to emerge in him. Finally, he became an atheist whose most beloved things were mathematics and philosophy.

In April 1959, Russell sat down with John Freeman of the BBC programme *Face to Face* for an interview. Russell reminisced about his early attraction to mathematics. "I got the satisfaction that Plato says you can get out of mathematics," he said. "It was an eternal world. It was a timeless world. It was a world where a certain kind of perfection was possible."

This British thinker had refused to make God the object of his devotion. However, still, he could not remain free from the need for an object of devotion, and he placed mathematics in the place where he had earlier placed God. And not only this, but he also accepted mathematics attributes that only God can possess—**abdiyat/eternality** and freedom from the boundaries of time. He believed that through mathematics, he could obtain peace similar to that from religion—which is something that his inner being was searching for.

People who do not accept God and regard worship of God as meaningless prostrate before their self-made idols to satisfy their inner urge of worship and devotion. It is a **fact that 'ilah'/ a deity/worshipping something is a natural need of man. If a man does not bow down before God, he will have to bow down before other 'deities' because, without ilah/a deity, his inner vacuum cannot be filled. (p.269, para 3)**

People who make anything other than God the object of their devotion remain deprived of real peace, exactly like a mother who is deprived of her child and buys a plastic doll and seeks in vain to satisfy her motherly instincts from it. No matter how 'successful' an atheist may be material in his life, such moments are bound to come when he is compelled to think that reality is something other than what he thinks it is. No matter how busy they may be, atheists are sometimes compelled to wonder what this world is all about, where they have come from, and where they will go. As a result, there is a deep lack of contentment and peace inside them. People who refuse to make God the object of their devotion and worship may be so engrossed in the preoccupations and temporary pleasures of the world that they may be very content and are at peace. However, as soon as the artificial environment in which they live begins to reveal a crack, reality begins to force its way from inside them and reminds them that they are devoid of true peace and contentment.

There is another vacuum that man is facing on an extreme level today—and that has to do with an extreme moral crisis. It is an indispensable requirement for every social

group that its members live by certain moral standards. Without this, human civilization will collapse. However, man does not know how to fulfil this need after abandoning God. Even after decades of experiencing this predicament, man is still searching for a way out.

It is proof that a Godless culture has pushed the vehicle of humanity into a quagmire. It has derailed man from the path that leads to success. The boat of life has lost its anchor and mast and has become rudderless. The only solution to this is for man to turn back to God and recognize the significance in the life of authentic religiousness. It is the sole foundation based on which a good life can be built. On no foundation other than this is this possible.

The Oneness of God

There is a Creator of the universe. It is He who created the universe according to His plan, and it is He who is running it. Therefore, just as the rest of the entire universe obeys God, for man, too, the right attitude is that he should lead his life in obedience to God. All the prophets came into the world to convey this message to human beings. Moreover, the universe gives out this same lesson to the man at every moment. This is what the Islamic concept of the Oneness of God is about.

The Quran (14:10) says:

Is there any doubt about God, the Originator of the heavens and earth?

This statement of the Quran appears to be a question, but actually, it is the answer to a question. In this verse, the word **fatr (Phadne wala?? BUT THIS VERSE DOES NOT MENTION PHADNE WALA. IT MENTIONS ‘the Originator’. PLEASE CHECK.P. 272, PARA 2. MAYBE IT IS SOME OTHER VERSE)** is a definite and certain proof in support of God’s existence, which the Quran expresses elsewhere in this way (21:30):

Do not those who deny the truth see that the heavens and the earth were joined together and that We then split them asunder?

In one place in the Quran (21:22), the **nazm/order** in the universe is described as follows:

If there had been other deities besides God in the heavens and on the earth, both the heavens and earth would be ruined. God, Lord of the throne, is far above that they ascribe to Him.

These words of the Quran indicate that the power that controls the universe is God, and He is One. All physical sciences amazingly testify that the entire universe functions according to just one law. If the entire universe were not to function according to a single law and with full accuracy, the telescopes installed on Earth would not be able to ‘see’ up to 8000 million light-years in the vast universe. Our physical sciences would suddenly lose all their importance. For the universe to be in a **wahdani halat/state of**

unity with such order and precision tells us that it is in the control of only one God. Had it been in the control of several ‘gods’, chaos would have erupted. The universe would have been devastated and destroyed in the internecine conflict of various ‘gods’.

Referring to the management of the universe, the Quran (25:2) says (25:2):

Sovereign of the heavens and the earth, who has begotten no children and who has no partner in His sovereignty, He has created all things and measured them out precisely.

Physical observation tells us that there is one law for everything, and it is established on it with **intihai luzum/perfect precision, predictability and regularity**.

The universe is amazingly uniform. No matter which angle we view it from, the same **tarkeeb/order/pattern/structure/ arrangement/design**, in the same proportions, is found in all the parts of the universe. It indicates that the universe is, at every moment, in the control of an enormously powerful Being. The God who is the Creator of the universe is also its Ruler. In this matter, the question “If God is, why isn’t He visible to us?” has no relevance. We find ourselves in such a world where for us, there is no option but to accept some things without seeing them. It is not a question only of belief in God. In the universe that we are in and which we undoubtedly accept, there are innumerable things that we do not see and cannot see. However, despite this, we are compelled to accept them. We simply cannot understand the existence, order, design, beauty and functioning of the present universe without factoring in God.

No explanation of the universe can be satisfactory unless we accept the reality of the Unseen realm. In modern science, this is already being done in practice. For example, the existence of many particles inside the atom has been accepted even though we have not seen them. One of them is called the neutrino. In this article, there is no **barqi/electromagnetic/electrical/electric** charge, and even that, it has no mass. It is, as it were, a **la-shay wujud/non-existent thing**. In the words of a scientist, a neutrino is a “tiny bundle of nothing”.

Why is the existence of this **la-shay/non-existent thing** accepted? The reason is that in the atom, **baaz aise khaas (maybe a word missing here) zahir hote hain/certain effects appear that cannot be explained without accepting the existence of a non-particle in the structure of the atom. (P. 274, LAST PARA)** Among the startling qualities of this hypothetical neutrino is that it can pass through any physical or material body without any obstruction to cross the entire planet from the inside in its journey.

In a purely intellectual sense, to actually ‘see’ anything in the universe is so impossible that division has emerged in scientific philosophy on whether to regard the universe as an objective phenomenon or only something **that is subjectively felt or experienced/mehsoos ki jane wali cheez**.

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To accept God was never as difficult for man as it was to establish the right concept of God. Throughout all of known history, man has believed in God. Today, too, a big majority of the population of Earth accepts the existence of God. However, the actual problem has always been that despite accepting God, people accumulate such beliefs with this; as a result of accepting or not accepting God, both become the same. Thus, some people, while accepting God, posit such an interpretation of God that God's separate being itself appears doubtful. Some others accept God but invent such shirka/partners/ demi-gods, or muqarribeen-e bargah/beings they imagine are very close to God **because** God's **Khudai/Divinity** appears meaningless. (p. 275, para 2)

The reason for a man to **be-rah/deviate** in the matter of the right understanding of God has always been only one—and that is **kainat ke maloom waqiat par Khuda ko qiyas karna/, applying to their concept of God features or attributes that they observe in the world**. For instance, in this world, people have sons and daughters, and on this basis, it was assumed that God would have sons and daughters, and this way, a concept of a 'Holy Family' came into being. The emperors of the world have some close associates and courtiers, and so it was assumed that with God, too, there are some **muqarrbas/some people who are very close to Him** whom He has given **ikhtiyar/powers and jinki baton ko Voh suntan hai/whose views He listens to**. In this world, many forces are seen to be at work—for example, the sun and various stars—and so, it was assumed that these are all beings that partake of Divinity and that, joining with the Great God, they are running the universe. In this way, the idea of God became like a sort of '**joint business'/mushtarik karobar**. And so on.

It was these sorts of **mazahir parasti [P. 275, LAST PARA, LINE 1]** which, arriving in philosophical minds, took the form of monism. People say that one universe is filled with innumerable things, from man to the stars. They wanted to find unity in this diversity. Thus, they said that there is one **mutlaq/Absolute** God manifesting Himself in different forms. In this way, the concept of God was moulded as an abstract idea in which God did not have a separate **being/existence**. Everything was said to emerge from inside God and, **khatam hokar (p. 276, para 1, line 3)**, dissolve in God again. It is this notion that produced the belief in 'human gods'. It was assumed that some people had negated their worldly status through certain spiritual practices in such a way that even while still alive, they have united with God, and in this way, in their lifetime itself, they have become a part of that God which other people will become a part of after their death.

Islam has kept apart from the concept of God from all these hypothetical speculations. It says that every such addition is a negation of the concept of God.

God is that God who in every respect possesses the attribute of **yektai/Unity/Oneness/Uniqueness/Incomparability** [P.276, PARA 2, LINE 2], completely free from every partnership in His Being and His attributes. In the Quran (112:1-4), this fact is narrated thus:

Say, "He is God, the One, God, the Self-sufficient One. He does not give birth, nor was He born, and there is nothing like Him."

Practical Significance of Monotheism

In Islam, the doctrine of the Oneness of God or *tauhid* is not a mere abstract idea. It has an extremely deep and intimate practical connection with man's life. According to Islam, only that person is a *muwahid* or true monotheist whose faith in, and devotion to, the One God is reflected in his thinking and character. The Oneness of God means that just as the Creator of the universe is One, it is **Malik/Lord and Master** is also One. According to his actions, God is that Being to whom a man is answerable and from whom man will receive punishment or reward. In this way, the concept of the Hereafter becomes, indirectly, part of the Islamic concept of *tauhid*.

Khuda ke takhleeqi zuhoor ko manney ke beghair jis tarah Khuda ka aqida bemaaney hai, usi tarah Khuda ke Muhasib aur Majazi honey ki haisiyat ko jab tak tasleem na kiya jaye, Khuda ki yektai ka aqida mukammil nahi hota/Belief in God is meaningless without accepting His role as Creator. In the same way, without accepting God as Muhasib (?) and Majazi (?), the concept of God remains incomplete[P. 276, LAST PARA AND P. 277, FIRST PARA] The universe is a manifestation of the **qudrat-e kamila/Absolute power/omnipotence** of the One God who has no partners. **The present world is the ghaibi zuhur of wahdat-e Ilahi. The world of the Hereafter will be mushahidati zuhur of the wahdat-e Ilahi. The Oneness appears to be a subject of reflection and thought in the present world. The world of the Hereafter will be that world where the Oneness of God will become an established phenomenon. On that day, the Oneness of God will be an accepted and known reality; just as today, the sun is an accepted and well-known reality for us. If a person regards God as one but Khuda ki yektai ke us zuhur ko tasleem na karey jo akhirat ki surat mai samney aney wala hai, then his concept of tauhid is defective. [SEE PARA 1, P. 277. THIS SECTION MARKED IN RED IS NOT CLEAR. THE AVERAGE READER MAY NOT UNDERSTAND WHAT IS BEING SAID. PLEASE EXPLAIN THIS SECTION IN SIMPLE LANGUAGE]** He can be a philosophical monotheist, but calling him an Islamic monotheist will not be correct.

"God is One"—This is not just a numerical issue. (p. 277, para 2, line 1) Rather, it is related to explaining all the realities—known and unknown. Be it the material world or spiritual world, present or future, issues concerning this world or the other world—all these things are incomprehensible until they are explained in terms of ideological unity until we succeed in finding their relation to **the Oneness of God**. The discovery of God's

Oneness is the discovery of central unity behind all realities. Real monotheism can explain to us the eternal meaningfulness of all realities. An ideology that does not explain the eternal meaningfulness of realities as one whole cannot be called 'monotheism' from the Islamic point of view.

Khuda ki wahdat ko pana usi waqt mukammil hota hai jab ki woh usi ke sath insan aur kainat ki wahdat ko paney ki hum mayne ban jaye./ A person's discovery of the Oneness of God gets completed only if it becomes synonymous with discovering the oneness of man and the rest of the universe. At this level, all contradictions dissolve, and only Oneness remains as the ultimate reality. [P.277, LAST PARA]

Even a person like Darwin accepted the existence of the Creator. However, he could not discover the relationship between the Creator and man. As a result of this, from the womb of Darwin's theory, the most extreme forms of atheism began to emerge.

The issue of the concept of the Oneness of God is also like this. The issue of the Oneness of God should be studied in such a way that **humko tauhid (maybe it should read as 'Khuda') aur insaan ke darmiyan nisbat ki daryaft tak pahuncha sakey/ it can lead us to discover the relationship between God and man.** Without this, this study would be incomplete, but there is also the **apprehension/possibility** that it might lead the seekers of Truth in the reverse direction, to some other destination. **[P. 277 LAST PARA, P. 278, 1ST PARA]**

Man and Monotheism

Man is just an insignificant part of the universe. The universe functions in complete obedience to its Creator and Master, and the same thing is desired of man. Therefore, the proper action method for man is that he agrees to submit to and obey God, thus becoming a fellow traveller, as it were, of the rest of the universe. Man can succeed in life—in this world and the next —**only when he gives himself into God's control (P. 278, LINE 8).** The reason for the accurate and perfect functioning of the universe is that it has dyed itself in the hue of Divine ethics. The **secret of a** truly successful human life is the same.

The One God is the source of all goodness. Heedlessness of the One God is the root of all evils. Discovering the Oneness of God implies the discovery that the Creator of the universe, the One who maintains and manages it, the One who sustains it and the Sole Master of every sort of power is the One God. Besides Him, no one in this universe possesses any power in the real sense. From atoms to galaxies, everything in the universe is under His command. It is all completely managed by the One Master of all. This is why the entire physical universe, with all its vastness, is exactly as it should be. Not even a single minor defect has been observed in its design. On the contrary, it functions with such complete accuracy that it has not erred by even a second or a millimetre even in billions of years.

The universe is characterized by an amazing balance in the system of Nature. These words of the Quran (67:3-4) beautifully express this reality:

He created seven heavens, one above the other in layers. You will not find any flaw in the creation of the Gracious One. Then look once again: can you see any flaw? Then look again and again. Finally, your gaze will come back to you, confused and exhausted.

For the physical universe to be without any flaws and defects in this way is because it is directly in God's control. **The universe is the maadi zuhur/physical manifestation/expression** of God's attributes. (P. 279, PARA 3) However, the case of the human world is different. Russian playwright and short-story writer Anton Chekhov (1860-1904) very aptly remarked that this world is beautiful. There is only one thing that is not beautiful: the man.

Man is the only creature in the entire universe that hates and fights with members of his species. Instead of reform, he creates strife and chaos. He commits deeds that cause terrible destruction.

Why is there this difference between the two domains—the world of man and the rest of the universe? The rest of the universe is directly functioning according to God's command. Therefore, it is compelled to be the way God wants. However, man has been given freedom by God. Thus, man can choose to walk either on the right path or the wrong path. The cause of the corruption of the human world is just this. The rest of the universe is bound to follow God's will, so it is completely defect-free.

In contrast, the man follows his desires, which is why chaos, strife, and corruption keep emerging in his affairs. Every evil found on Earth results from the improper use of human freedom. Throughout his history, the man had proven correct the apprehension that the angels had expressed before God when man was created. As the Quran (2:30) says:

When your Lord said to the angels, "I am putting a successor on earth," they said, "Will You place someone there who will cause corruption on it and shed blood, while we glorify You with Your praise and extol Your holiness?"

The freedom that man possesses is not absolute. It is only **waqti/temporary** freedom, and it has been given under God's Creation Plan. The freedom that human beings possess is for the sake of the test they are being put to while they are on Earth. The Lord of the universe wants to see who among them, even while possessing freewill, does not wrongly use his freedom so that He can bless such people with His rewards. The world's present system will remain until this test is not completed. **After the period for the test is over/When the period for the test gets over, the Master of the Earth will take the administration of the Earth directly into His hands, just as He is presently holding the administration of the rest of the universe directly in His hands.** (SEE P. 280, PARA 2.

THIS POINT NEEDS TO BE CLARIFIED/ELABORATED) At that time, good people and evil people will be separated. The good will obtain life in Paradise for eternity, while the evil will be pushed into the rubbish dump of the universe for eternity.

In other words, the present world is that place where the inhabitants of the Divine world that are to come are being selected. **It is only those who, despite being free, willingly submit to and faithfully follow God's commands whom God will consider worthy of becoming inhabitants of Paradise. Even while not being compelled to do so, these are those who abide by God's will. At present, in the period when the test of human beings is still underway, all sorts of people are present on Earth. However, after the test period, only saleh/virtuous people will be deemed worthy of the eternal world of Paradise, while the rest will be cast away into Hell/perdition. (CHECK THIS. P. 280)**